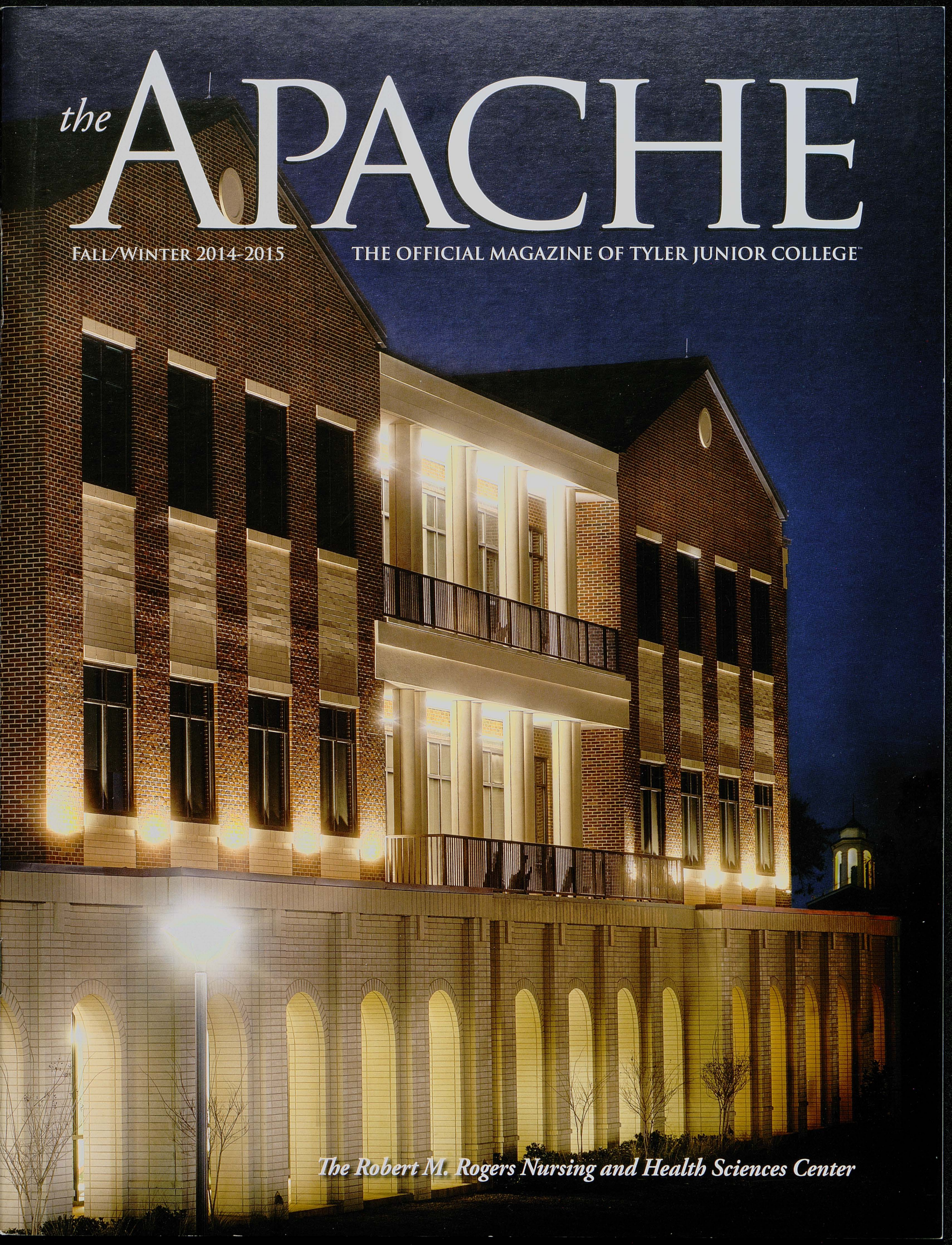
the APACHE

FALL/WINTER 2014-2015

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE™



The Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center

the APACHE

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FALL/WINTER 2014-2015

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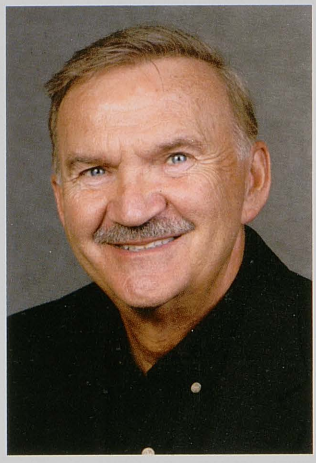
A Message from the President



It may sound strange, but each year when I've looked back, I've thought it was our best year yet at TJC. The year 2014 was no exception, and 2015 promises to be a year of even greater milestones.

If we're not moving forward, we're falling behind; and I am pleased to report that your favorite junior college is moving forward, full throttle.

In 2014, our athletics program earned its 50th – and recently its 51st – national title. Great friends of the College helped us establish the first Promise scholarship program in Texas, and we launched the region's first early college high school with Chapel Hill Independent School District. In spring, we broke ground on a new residence hall.

In January 2015, the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center opened, as did the Energy Center on the West Campus. And in June, we'll open a new residence hall to accommodate 250 more on-campus students.

New academic programs – physical therapist assistant and veterinary technology – are joining programs that launched in Fall 2014, such as occupational therapy assistant and wellness and exercise specialist. With the addition of the Rogers Center, dental hygiene enrollment will grow by 20 percent and our associate degree nursing program will increase by 50 percent.

This spring, our first ladies' softball team will take the field; and in fall, we'll launch our second early college high school with Tyler Independent School District.

We begin 2015 with abundant optimism! Good news doesn't sell well and the news media will report enough doom and gloom to make you question the future. Just know that for those of us at TJC, we believe we're living in the most exciting times yet! Join us and catch the spirit!

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Apache and that you'll plan to join in our grand opening celebrations in the coming months.

Go, Apaches!

L. Michael Metke

Dr. L. Michael Metke
President, Tyler Junior College

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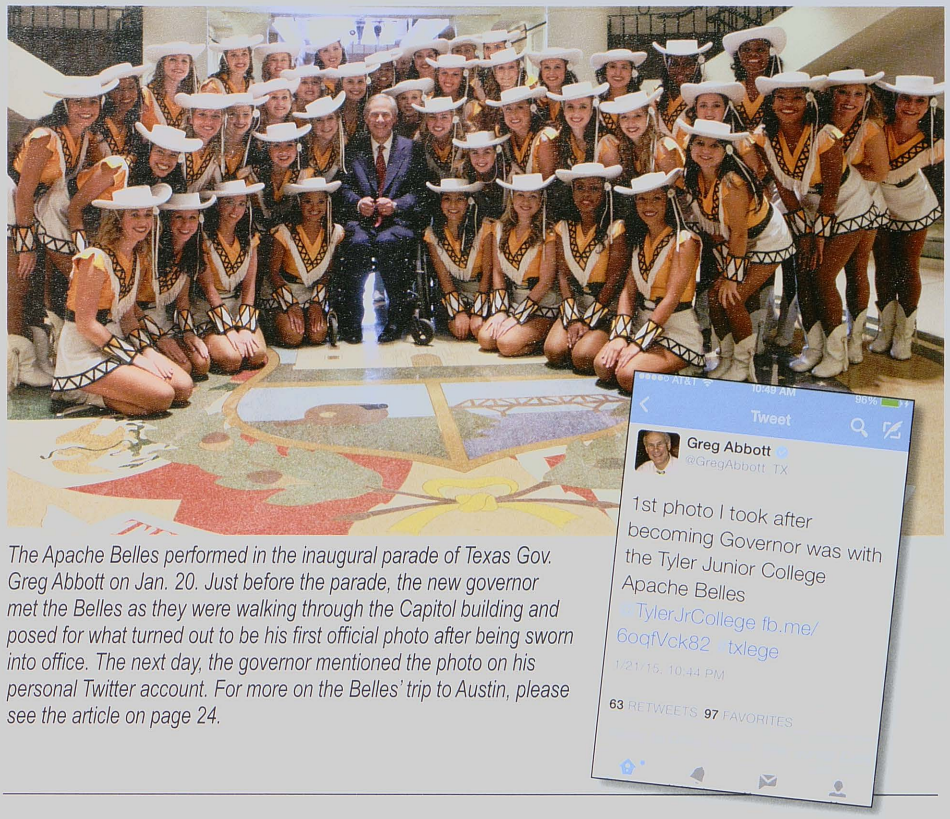
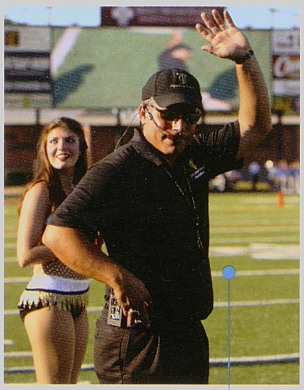


The Apache Belles performed in the inaugural parade of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Jan. 20. Just before the parade, the new governor met the Belles as they were walking through the Capitol building and posed for what turned out to be his first official photo after being sworn into office. The next day, the governor mentioned the photo on his personal Twitter account. For more on the Belles' trip to Austin, please see the article on page 24.



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ON THE COVER:

At 150,000 square feet, the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Science Center makes quite a first impression for passersby at the corner of Fifth Street and Fleishel Avenue. Photo by Allen Arrick.

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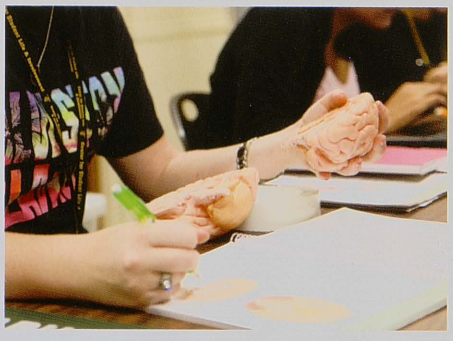
Promise No. 1: A Quality Education

Alexus O'Neal (far left), a pre-nursing major from San Antonio, Dr. Cliff Boucher, TJC biology professor and department chair, and Dr. Betsy Ott, TJC biology professor, examine a SynDaver, a synthetic replica of a human leg used as a training resource for students in TJC science labs.

Marked Improvement

Science Resource Center breeds success for TJC biology students

By Fred M. Peters



Planned growth in the TJC's nursing and health sciences fields will require more qualified students who have successfully completed prerequisite courses, such as Anatomy and Physiology I and II and Microbiology.

These students will make application to the growing associate-degree nursing program and other new and expanding programs meeting in the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center. But without more teachers and more lab space first, TJC's biology department was faced with a dilemma: how could the pool of qualified students be increased in advance of the facility's grand opening?

A little more than two years ago, as deans, department chairs and professors began discussing ways to increase this pool – while awaiting results of a bond election on which the facility depended – an idea emerged.

"When I became department chair, one of the first things Dr. (Kenneth) Murphy (dean of engineering, mathematics and sciences) brought to me was news that we may be building a new nursing and health sciences center," said Dr. Cliff Boucher, biology professor and department chair. "I knew that if the academic programs were going to double the number of graduates, at a minimum, I would have to double the number of students completing anatomy and physiology. And my head started spinning. I was wondering, 'How are we going to do this?' Really, there are two ways: one is to increase enrollment – and that means more professors and more lab space, which wasn't an option – and the other is retention. What can we do to ensure our students' success?"

Dr. Boucher met with biology faculty members and asked them to dedicate a portion of their office hours to shift duty in a new study lab. Faculty members agreed –

and suggested they relinquish their seldom-used faculty lounge located in the basement of Genecov Science Building, to establish a Science Resource Center.

"We pulled everything out of there and put in shelves, tables and brought as many models as we could get our hands on. We put in a flat-panel TV so that if the students are looking something up on a website, and there are five or six studying together, they don't have to crowd around a computer screen."

Students read the posted schedule of assigned faculty monitors and plan their study group times, usually choosing to meet when a professor from one of their classes is on hand. They scan their ID card upon entry and exit.

Using students' ID numbers and recorded entry and exit scans, Dr. Boucher tracks use of the SRC, and compares the classroom success of students who use the SRC with those who do not.

"What we have found is that we're getting between 800 and 950 log-ins a semester. Word is getting out and it is gaining in popularity," he said "Out of the total, about 300 are consistent users – two to three times a week. We now have roughly four semesters of data, and I can do a side-by-side comparison and see that it is working. Students who use the SRC are more successful. I can also see the trend that those who are logging in multiple times are doing better than those who just use it occasionally."

Dr. Boucher said one of the joys of working at TJC is that its biology faculty members are innovative, creative, and always looking for better solutions. "It's all about student success. What can we do to help more students achieve?"

Dr. Betsy Ott, a full-time biology professor since 1982, said the standard for excellence was in place when she began teaching at TJC, after teaching physiology and doing research at Auburn University while her husband was a graduate student there. She said faculty members have always received support from the college's instructional technology and information technology offices, such as the provision of software and website resources so that study aids could be placed on a public web page.

"Because I am a member of national organizations, I give presentations regularly," she said. As past president of the National Association of Biology Teachers and president-elect of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society, Dr. Ott uses an online histology of microscopic photos and graphics during the presentations; and she informs her students of the repository so that they may use it as a supplement to classroom and lab instruction.

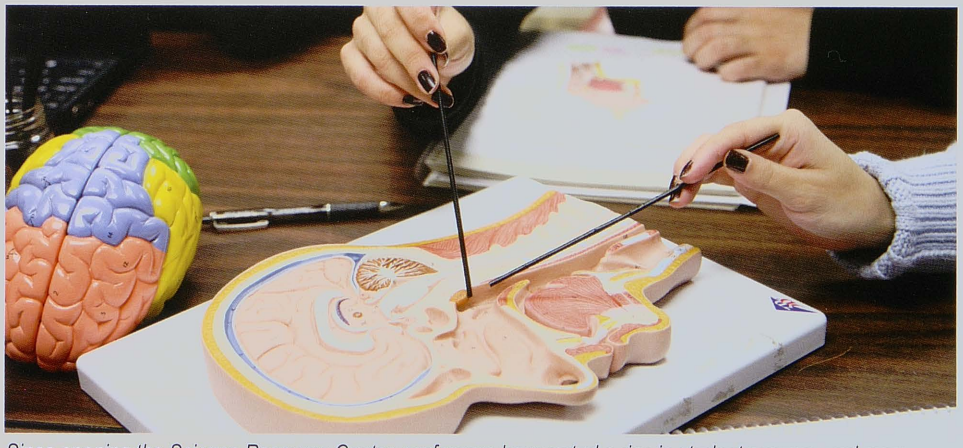
TJC's histology is listed as a trusted resource by faculty members of other colleges and universities around the world.

"We have a disclaimer that lets people know the material is free to use for educational purposes but to contact us for any commercial purpose," she said. "Two or three times per year this happens. Occasionally, someone wants to put an image in their lab manual. Our images are even published in a French middle school textbook.

"I'm betting I have the only picture of an aortic aneurism of a cat in the world, because we just happened to get a specimen and recognize what it was."

Anatomy and physiology students say the resources available to them online and in the SRC are aiding in their success.

Continued on page 31



Since opening the Science Resource Center, professors have noted a rise in student success and more interaction between the students and faculty.

Grand Opening Celebration

Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center

11 a.m. Friday, April 10

Please save the date!

Classes begin in new Rogers health sciences center

By Elise Mullinix

Just in time for the Spring 2015 semester, the doors opened on the Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center, Tyler Junior College's most ambitious construction project to date.

At approximately 150,000 square feet, the Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center allows for the gradual expansion of the associate degree nursing program by 50 percent and the dental hygiene program by 20 percent.

The new space has also allowed the addition of new programs, including: occupational therapy assistant, wellness and exercise specialist, physical therapist assistant, dental assisting, community health worker and polysomnography.

Features include the latest in simulation laboratories, as well as technology-enhanced classrooms that allow students to receive training on new, advanced equipment and have access to "universal" digital medical records and information.

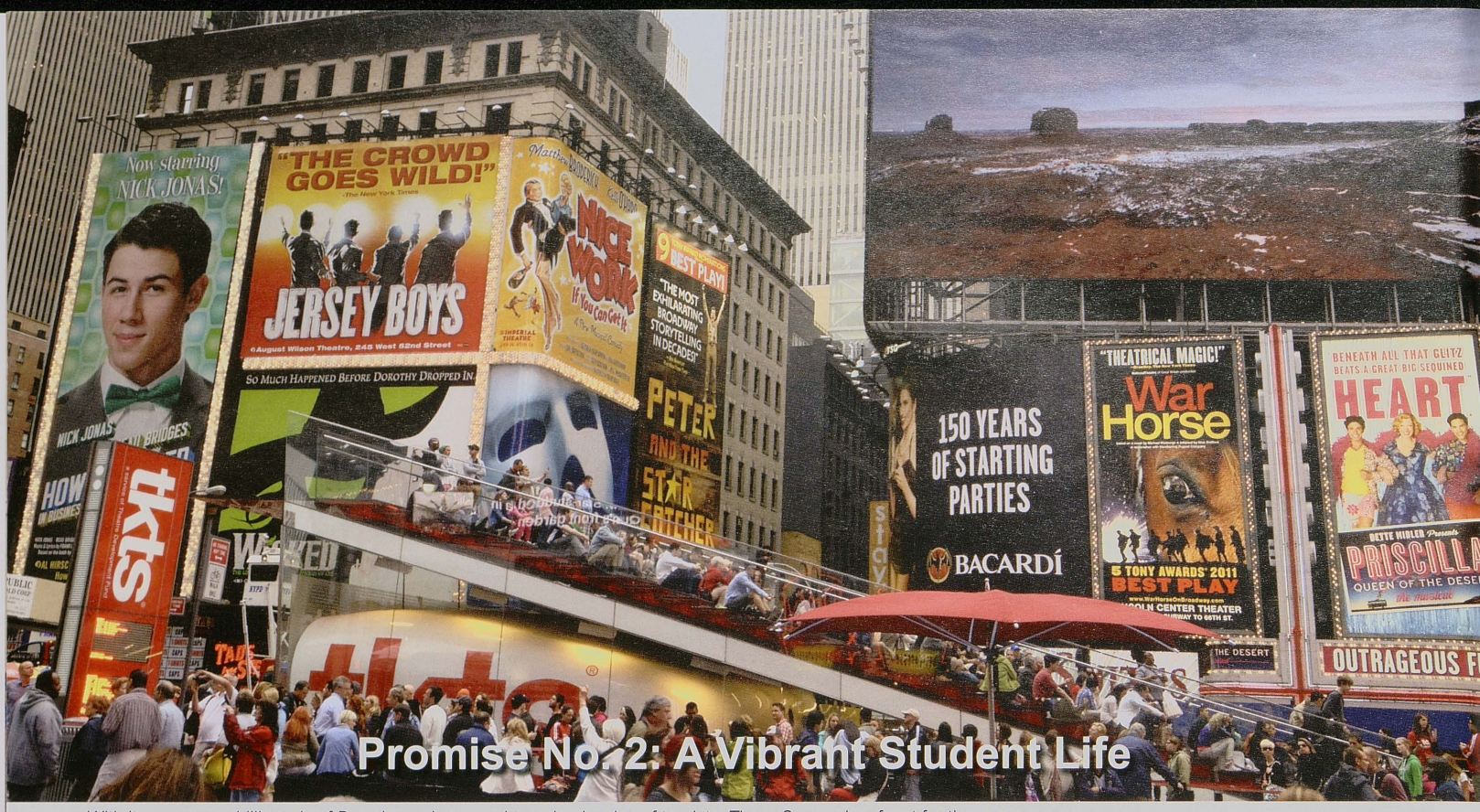
The $50 million center was funded with a $25 million bond issue that voters approved in May 2012, plus student fees and private contributions.

TJC President Dr. Mike Metke said an official grand opening and ribbon-cutting event will be held 11 a.m. Friday, April 10, to allow the public to tour the facility.

"We can't wait for the community to come and see what their contributions have helped create," Metke said.

"This facility is just incredible, and students who pass through here will have the very best training by our top-notch faculty using the latest technology."

For more information on the Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center, go to tjcnursing.com.



Promise No. 2: A Vibrant Student Life

With its enormous billboards of Broadway shows and teeming hordes of tourists, Times Square is a feast for the senses.

On With the Show

Travel-study tour takes students to Broadway

By Elise Mullinix

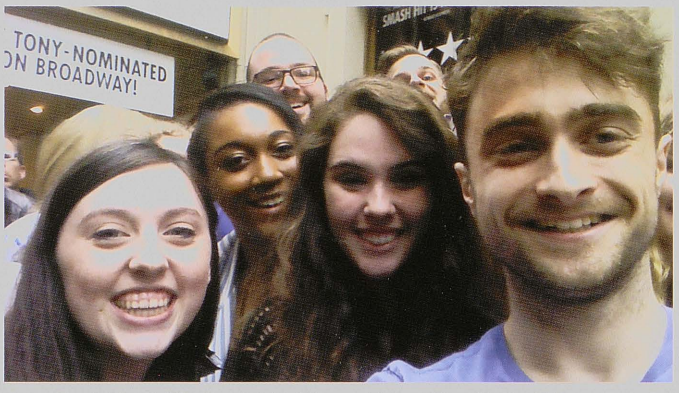
All the world might be a stage, but the one that really matters to theater students and fans alike is the Broadway stage.

At the close of each spring semester, TJC theater professor and tour guide extraordinaire Dr. David Crawford hosts a travel-study tour to New York and its famed theater district.

It's a jam-packed, whirlwind trip that includes Broadway and off-Broadway shows, a guided tour of the famous Players Club and workshops with New York theater professionals. It also includes all the sightseeing, pizza and cheesecake that can be crammed into six days and five nights.

The 2014 tour included an impressive roster of Broadway shows and performers:

- "Aladdin," starring Tony Award-winner James Monroe Inglehart as The Genie
- "Bullets Over Broadway," starring Zach Braff, known for his films, "Garden State" and "Wish I Was Here," and for his TV role as Dr. John "J.D." Dorian on "Scrubs"
- "The Cripple of Inishmaan," starring Daniel Radcliffe, who will forever be known as Harry Potter
- "Les Miserables," the revival of the classic Tony Award-winning musical
- "If/Then," starring Tony Award-winner Idina Menzel
- "Of Mice and Men," starring James Franco and Chris O'Dowd
- "Violet," starring Tony Award-winner Sutton Foster



Actor Daniel Radcliffe (far right) obliges with a selfie with the TJC group, after his performance in "The Cripple of Inishmaan."

"Our New York tour is possibly the strongest emotional experience a TJC theater major can have," Crawford said. "In the process of learning the New York method of production, every student casts a soulful, longing glance toward the Big Apple with the hopes and dreams of making it in the world's capital of theater. There's no place like it."

Jacob Charlebois wholeheartedly agrees.

"Every kid dreams of seeing Broadway," said Charlebois, a sophomore theater major from Winona. "I had never been before, and it truly lived up to – and surpassed – every expectation I ever had."

From a theater major's perspective, the New York trip was the entire package.

"We saw an incredible variety of Broadway shows and really enjoyed the city itself," he said, "but more than that, we really dug deep into what it takes if you want to seriously try to make a living there."

Case in point: A lesson from New York theater professionals and TJC alumni Judson and Christa Kimlicko Jones, directors of Theatre East, who put the students through an intensive, three-hour workshop on mastering the audition.

Charlebois said, "Each student had prepared a monologue before the trip; then one by one, we went into this tiny room with just Jud and Christa and auditioned for them, then they critiqued us. I did a piece from 'Beyond the Horizon' by Eugene O'Neill.

"It was simultaneously one of the most thrilling and terrifying things I've ever done."

Speaking of thrilling and terrifying, Dr. Deborah Kelley, TJC department chair and professor of behavioral sciences, learned to navigate the New York City subway system.

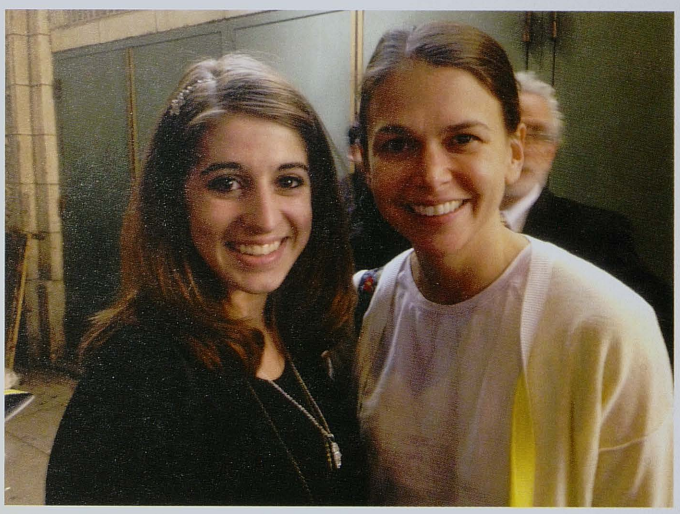
Kelley went along on the 2014 tour as a way of getting back to her childhood roots.

"My family is originally from Brooklyn, and I had visited my aunt and uncle there when I was a child," she said, "so Lara Smith (chair of the TJC speech, theater and dance department) and I studied the subway schedules, mustered our nerve, took the subway to Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, then walked to my parents' former home on 32nd Street. Lara took a photo of me sitting on their front lawn."

For Kelley, the trip's highlights were too many to name.

"We went to Central Park, the 9/11 Memorial, the observation deck at Rockefeller Center and Grand Central Station," she said.

"On the Sunday we left, Lara and I went to Mass in the glorious Saint Patrick's Cathedral, where my uncle had taken me when I visited them in 1965. This was truly a trip I will never, ever forget."



Following the performance of the Broadway musical "Violet," Tony-winner Sutton Foster (right) poses for a photo with Kara Kuczkowski, a TJC dual-credit student from Bullard.

Crawford nodded, "Anyone taking part in this tour will tell you they return to Texas changed. They have seen for themselves that the world isn't so abstract or so huge. They've seen it, taken part in it, and conquered."

Charlebois is carefully considering his post-TJC plans. He has an eye on a Bachelor of Fine Arts in stage-managing from the University of Houston or a BFA in stage design from Texas Tech.

The New York experience also reinforced his desire to pursue a life in the theater.

"We act and put together shows every day and it would be easy to get burned out," he said.

"Going to New York and seeing it for myself was like a breath of cold, fresh air. Seeing the performances of famous actors such as Daniel Radcliffe and Sutton Foster, then meeting them at the stage door after the shows, it made me realize they were all unknowns once, and they've been in the position I'm in now.

"I came home feeling like working in the theater is a tangible thing for me. It's within reach."

For more information on future trips, go to tjc.edu/TravelStudy/NewYork.

Elise Mullinix is TJC editorial manager.

The group meets TJC alumnus Trinity Wheeler (center, black shirt), who is the stage manager for the Broadway revival of "Les Miserables."

Promise No. 3: Community Service

Miles of Smiles

Dental hygiene students and faculty volunteer in community outreach program

By Allen Arrick

Making a difference in the community often comes down to small things, like giving someone a healthy smile, which is exactly what Tyler Junior College dental hygiene students did during a five-day medical and dental outreach program at Van High School last summer.

From June 2-6, TJC partnered with Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry and UT Health Northeast to provide dental care free of charge for about 300 patients in the Van area. Forty-five students, alumni and faculty from TJC and 40 dental school students from A&M participated in providing more than $115,000 in dental services.

TJC Dental Hygiene Professor Christina Horton helped coordinate the event with Dr. Joshua Liescheski, a dentist from UT Health Northeast, among others. Equipment was brought in by the Baylor College of Dentistry, donated or paid for by the state of Texas.

"There's such a need for dental care. And I know TJC sees that need and they want to help the community," Horton said. "To know that the need for public health is out there. When the students see the need for it, they're going to want to help."

And the need is great; the East Texas Human Needs Network, a Tyler-based non-profit, identified dental care as the number one greatest health need among East Texans. Beginning around January of 2014, volunteers from the various agencies began planning the program, called East Texas Medical and Dental Outreach.

Over four and a half days in June, the volunteers set up a makeshift dentist office at 8 a.m. each day in the Van High School gymnasium. In all, they performed 360 dental extractions, 140 fillings and 220 sealants for children. Admission was open to the public, but a triage was set up prior to determining the need.

"We didn't have income criteria," Horton said, "but the intention was uninsured patients, free of charge. The need for dental care is so big, that if you can take away the fear of paying for it — that's a big factor — if you can take away the anxiety, the patients need it and they want it; but they need that buffer in between that helps accommodate it."

Horton also noted that it wasn't only Van or East Texas residents that received care.

"It was a wide range of people. We had a patient from Houston and one from Missouri who was visiting their family at the time," she said. "We saw [both] kids and adults."

For the TJC students, the volunteer time made a big impression.

"There were children who came in, who you saw that really needed this care, "TJC student Kelsey Weaver said. "The joy you had just to hug them and love them and the smile that they had on their face. They would ask 'how beautiful is my smile?' The feeling that you get, you can't buy that."

For most of the time, TJC students assisted the Baylor dental school students in performing procedures, and in one case, helped reconstruct a patient's front teeth.

"[The students] loved it," Horton said. "They did not receive anything for this. They didn't get a grade or extra credit; it was strictly volunteer."

The explosion of volunteer work and community service from the TJC Dental Hygiene program comes at a time of change within the program as well. This spring, the students moved into the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Science Center where they have access to the latest in technology and training.

Dr. Paul Latta, who co-chaired a development task force in support of the new facility, said the new dental clinic not only serves the needs of the students but also of the community.

"The dental hygiene department already serves the community by taking patients coming in to get treated there," Latta said, "but they're going to be able to treat so many more, plus full-service dentistry for the under-served in our community in with the partnership with UT Health Northeast is going to be huge.

"I think the new facility is going to be awesome."

The students are as excited as Latta.

"We are so fortunate to have come in when we did, to be able to be a part of something so great," Weaver said.

As is the case with other types of volunteer work, seeing gratitude in the eyes other another person can be humbling and rewarding.

TJC students also provided preventative care recently at four Tyler ISD schools, and they're planning another dental outreach program in Van in June.

But Christina Horton knows volunteer work like this is impossible without the help of others.

"It takes all the partnerships to be able to make all the difference," she said "TJC can't fix it, dental hygiene can't fix it, UT Health Northeast can't fix it; but if we all work together, we can make a difference."

For more information on TJC Dental Hygiene, go to tjc.edu/dental.

Allen Arrick is TJC multimedia content producer.

◀ *From left: Kelsey Weaver, first-year TJC dental hygiene student; Dr. Joshua Liescheski, regional dentist for the Texas Department of State Health Services; and Christina Horton, TJC dental hygiene professor. For more photos, please see our digital edition at apachemagazine.com.*

Goodbye, Mr. Mensch

After more than a decade, TJC band director passes the baton

By Elise Mullinix

After 11 years at Tyler Junior College, Tom Mensch has relinquished his baton as TJC director of bands.

Mensch accepted a new position as minister of instrumental music at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler and began his duties in December. Jeremy Strickland, assistant director of bands at Texas Christian University, will take over as TJC director of bands in June. For more on Strickland, see Page 25.

"Some of the best years of my life have been here at TJC," Mensch said during an interview in his nearly empty office in early December. More than a decade's worth of photos and memorabilia had been removed from his office walls. All that remained were a few desk items, a laptop computer and the ever-present trombone waiting patiently on its metal stand.

"Having the opportunity to work with my friends and, of course, my wife, has been a privilege."

Before joining Tyler Junior College in 2003, Mensch taught at Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler from 1999 to 2003 and at Lamar High School in Houston from 1996 to '99.

When Mensch joined TJC in 2003, there were 35 kids in marching band. The next fall, there were 130. At its peak in 2009, there were 206 students. Today, that number is around 170.

"Before I came aboard in Fall 2003, associate director of bands Tom McGowan and student assistants Kristen Dillard and Caitlyn Alcorn worked hard to get the word out and get kids excited about the band program, plus scholarships were added. A lot of things happened in that first year that led to the explosion in growth. It was an incredibly exciting, busy time."

So exciting and busy that in the following spring, his wife, Heather Mensch, was hired as an assistant director.

"I'm so proud of her," he said. "She was given the jazz program that spring, and it has grown into this huge, successful, monster program in and of itself.

"God has done a tremendous job in blessing us and, hopefully, blessing the students and the school through us. More than anything else, that's where the glory goes. I was just going where I was led. I was allowed to be a vessel, and for that I am so grateful."

He's off to be a vessel elsewhere, but his student-musicians at TJC will be what he will miss most about the job.

"I'll miss the interaction with them and being part of their lives," he said.

He hopes to have influenced them not just in life and in music but also in how they think.

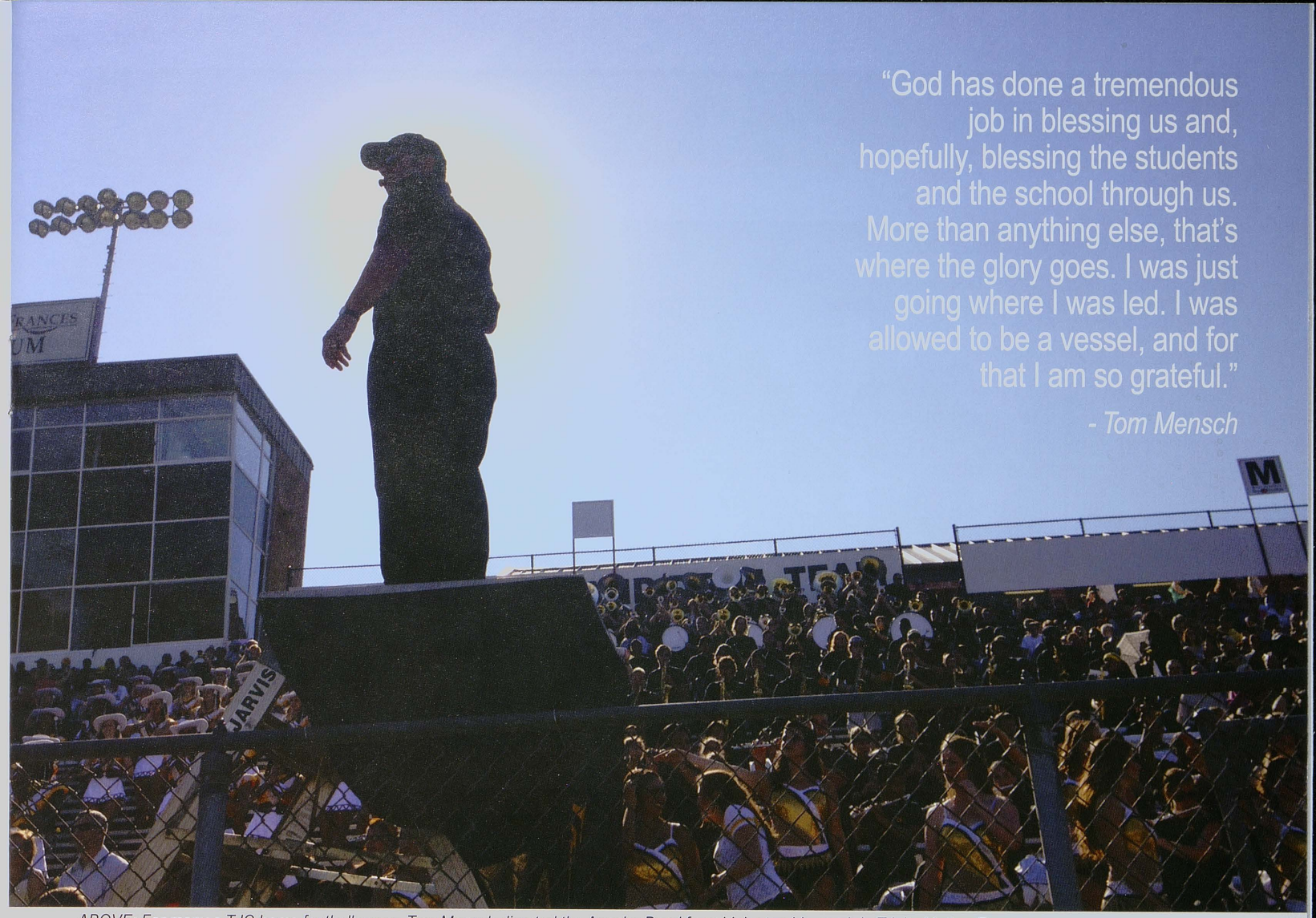
"Teaching music isn't just about learning to play notes on a page," he said.

"It's trying to teach students to think correctly and critically, to transform their minds to focus on the task at hand. More than at any other time, we are ultra-distracted with our cell phones and social media and any number of things. There's always something competing for our attention.

"It's important that they learn to take the time to discipline their minds to focus on one thing. That skill – combined with learning to react appropriately and make good decisions – will carry them far in life, even more than learning to play an instrument."

Playing an instrument is important, too, and being a band director who also still plays his horn is something he sees as paramount to credibility in the classroom.

"There's an old adage that goes, 'If you can't do, go teach,'" he said. "That's just wrong, because you're not worth anything as a teacher if you can't do the thing you're trying to teach kids how to do."



ABOVE: For many a TJC home football game, Tom Mensch directed the Apache Band from high atop his perch in Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium. LOWER LEFT: Mensch and his wife, Heather Mensch, TJC professor of jazz studies and applied low brass.

Besides playing in Sold Out Jazz Orchestra (based at Green Acres Baptist Church), Mensch is lead trombonist with the East Texas Jazz Orchestra, acting principal trombone in the Longview Symphony, and a substitute player in the Shreveport Symphony.

Both Mensches spend much of their summers touring with the Metro Big Band, associated with Global Missions Project. In past tours, they've performed and ministered in Guatemala, Japan, Russia, Ukraine, Finland, Portugal, Brazil and Scotland.

"The best leaders I've ever seen are the ones who model the behavior," he said. "The worst leaders are the ones who say, 'I want you to do that, but I'm beyond that now. I've earned the right not to do that.'

"That, to me, is the height of hypocrisy. If you want them to play a note appropriately, you show them how to do that. And I can only teach as well as I'm able to show."

In addition to his students, he will miss the camaraderie with his coworkers at Apache football games, namely Head Coach Danny Palmer and Apache Belles Director Jasilyn Schaefer.

"I happened to work with genuine people who understand how it all works," Mensch said. "I know places where the drill team director and band director don't get along. We share time on the field, so we need to be able to communicate clearly. When (former Belles director) Ruth Flynn was here, it was always a great relationship and it's been the same with Jasilyn."

Schaefer agreed, "Working with Tom Mensch has been a joy and a pleasure. There was never a dull moment with him, and his ability to relate to his students as well as his talent and passion for music performance have made him one of the Apache Band's most beloved directors.

"I'll miss having an office next to his. I'll even miss hearing him practicing his trombone every day."

Mensch undoubtedly enjoyed his time at TJC, but he looks forward to the new challenge.

"God has always given me a distinct vision for where I'm supposed to be, and I know full well that this is the time for me to go. This will be a great time for someone new to come in with new blood and new ideas and take it to another level.

"I leave here knowing I've given my all and done my best to walk the walk. In marching band vernacular, I 'left it all on the field.'"

Elise Mullinix is TJC editorial manager.

GOAPACHES

Men's Soccer scores 51st national title for TJC

The TJC men's soccer team celebrates with the championship trophy after taking TJC's 51st national title on Nov. 23, in Prescott, Arizona. The Apaches defeated Monroe (New York) College, 2-1.

MEN'S SOCCER

The TJC Apaches are NJCAA national soccer champions once again after scoring a 2-1 win over Monroe (New York) College in the NJCAA National Soccer Tournament final Nov. 23, in Prescott, Arizona.

TJC's Steve Clements was named Coach of the Year. It was his fifth overall national championship, four with TJC.

Yaw Amankwa, a sophomore from Baltimore, was named tournament Most Valuable Player.

The Apaches (21-3) have won four national titles in men's soccer — 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2014. Overall, it was TJC athletics' 51st national title.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

On Nov. 2, a sea of fans packed Pat Hartley Soccer Complex in Tyler as TJC and Navarro College women's soccer teams battled for the Region XIV championship. The two nationally ranked teams fought hard, but No. 8 Navarro came up with a 3-1 victory over No. 3 TJC for the upset. The Apache Ladies ended their season at 16-2-1.

FOOTBALL

One of the highest-scoring seasons in TJC football history came to an end in a 73-46 conference championship loss to Trinity Valley Community College on Nov. 8.

TJC finished 8-2. TVCC finished 11-0 and played in the Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove on Dec. 6 against Coffeyville, 9-2. The Apaches finished ranked No. 14 in the nation.

The Apaches and Kilgore College faced off in a high-scoring shootout of a homecoming game at Rose Stadium on Oct. 25. TJC defeated Kilgore, 55-44.

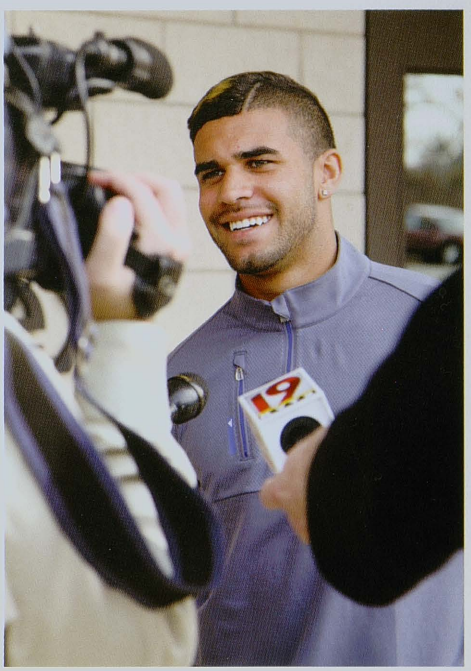
MEN'S GOLF

The TJC men's golf team captured the tournament title at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Fall Invitational played at Cowan Creek Golf Club in Georgetown. TJC, who was 9 shots back after round one, shot a second day team score of 287, which earned them a two-day score of 575. They finished two shots ahead of day one leader Schreiner University, and 23 shots ahead of host Mary Hardin-Baylor. Ben Page led the way for the Apaches, shooting a two day total of 142, earning him runner-up honors individually.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Apache Ladies golf team captured the top two team spots and the top eight individual places to dominate their own TJC Fall Intercollegiate Golf Tournament held Oct. 20 and 21 at Eagle's Bluff Country Club. Kerbey Kipp, a sophomore from Tyler Lee, earned medalist honors with a 153 (76-77) in the 36-hole tournament. She won by two strokes over teammate Sara Ruiz, a sophomore from Caracas, Venezuela. Ruiz carded a 155 (72-83).

GOAPACHES

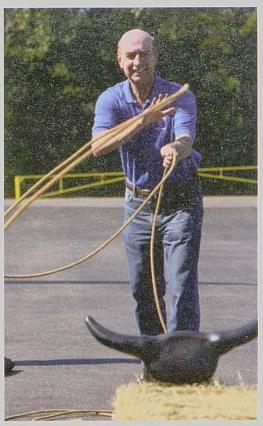


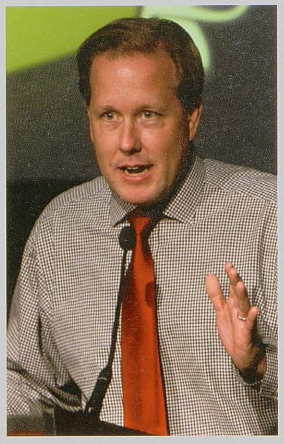
Major League Soccer all-star and former Apache Dom Dwyer was in Tyler on Dec. 10, to catch up with head coach Steve Clements, chat with friend and former teammate Kyle Nicholls (now a TJC assistant) and play a little pickup soccer game with the national champion Apaches. Dwyer led Tyler Junior College to its first two national titles in 2009 and 2010. The Apaches have since won two more, most recently in November in Arizona. "For him to come back and for the guys to be able to spend time with somebody like that; someone they see on television all the time and hear about all the time is pretty special," said Clements, who enjoyed the action of the pickup game held at Pat Hartley Soccer complex. "We love Dom as a player, but we love him more as a person. He's just a good guy. He's always fun and was a pleasure to coach." It also helped that Dwyer was a prolific goal-scorer for the Apaches, and that has continued in the MLS with Sporting KC. Dwyer helped SKC win the MLS Cup last year and finished this season as the league's second-leading scorer with 22 goals.

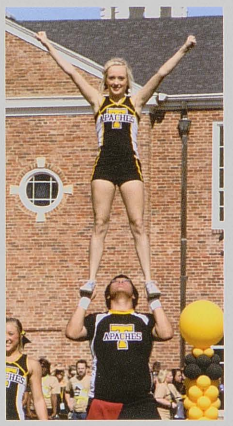
Apache Softball takes the field for inaugural game

Baytown sophomore Halle Sabo takes her turn at bat in the inaugural Apache softball game against East Texas Baptist University on Friday, Jan. 30. Before the game, Dr. Tim Drain, TJC athletic director, presented head coach Nicole Dickson and assistant Caitlan Bollier with softball roses, and TJC President Dr. Mike Metke threw out the ceremonial first pitch. The Apache Ladies lost the first game, 10-3, but quickly bounced back to win the second 3-2, as the squad split a doubleheader with ETBU's JV at Schwab Field on The Brook Hill School campus. For team rosters and schedules, go to apacheathletics.com.

HOMECOMING • OCT. 24 AND 25 • TJC AND TRINITY MOTHER FRANCES ROSE STADIUM







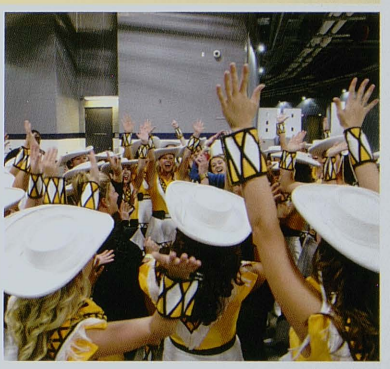
Go to tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com for galleries of all TJC events! You might see yourself!

POPS CONCERT • NOV. 20 AND 21 • WISE AUDITORIUM

BAND-A-PALOOZA • OCT. 9 AND 10 • WISE AUDITORIUM

'THE GRAPES OF WRATH' • OCT. 8-12 • JEAN BROWNE THEATRE

APACHE BELLES AT DALLAS COWBOYS VS. WASHINGTON REDSKINS • OCT. 30 • AT&T STADIUM



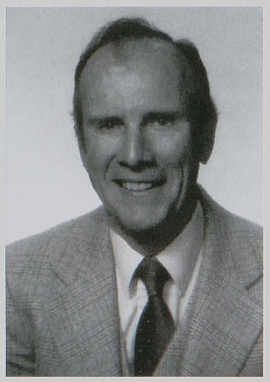
Go to tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com for galleries of all TJC events! You might see yourself!

Endowed scholarships invest in futures of business, medical students

By Becca Anderson

James C. Wynne Endowed Scholarship

The city of Tyler helped make James (Jimmy) Wynne an outstanding man and citizen, and he spent a great deal of his life trying to repay that debt. Now, through an endowed scholarship in his name, funded through the generosity of Virginia L. Gatewood and the Gatewood-Hawkins Foundation, his efforts to make Tyler a better place for all will continue in perpetuity. Recipients will be selected from deserving students who have graduated from a Tyler high school and are pursuing a degree in a business-related field.



James C. Wynne

Wynne was born in 1929 in Wichita Falls to the late Fleet and James Chester Wynne Sr. and moved to Tyler in 1934, where he attended public schools including John Tyler High School. After attending the Citadel for two years and serving in the United States Air Force, he graduated from the The University of Texas at Austin School of Engineering, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He returned to Tyler and remained a resident the rest of his life.

With his father, Wynne founded East Texas Oxygen, a major distributor of industrial gases and welding supplies. From that start, he went on to develop real estate projects, build homes, invest in oil and gas properties, build and operate businesses and facilitate the development of many other businesses through active investment and oversight. Though a success in business, Wynne's desire was to enhance the quality of life in the city of Tyler for the benefit of all its citizens; and he was recognized by receiving the T.B. Butler Award for Tyler's most outstanding citizen in 1984.

Business success overflowed into personal and philanthropic success. Wynne was instrumental in the formation of All Saints Episcopal School and was the first recipient of the school's Flame of Excellence award in 1991. He supported the school and a wide variety of charitable and civic organizations throughout his life. Some of these interests included PATH, Christ Episcopal Church, Tyler Day Nursery, East Texas Crisis Center, Tyler Police Foundation, Tyler Economic Development Council, East Texas Medical Center, East Texas Food Bank, Seminary of the Southwest and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, as well as professional and civic boards too numerous to mention.

"The Wynne family is truly grateful to Virginia and the Gatewood-Hawkins Foundation for honoring Jimmy with this generous scholarship," Marietta "Bitsy" Wynne said. "Jimmy believed in investing in Tyler and would be proud that his scholarship will invest in the education of worthy students from our city."

The endowed scholarship in James Wynne's name will build on the legacy he established by bringing higher education within the reach of talented young people from Tyler. Each student who graduates with the tools necessary to be successful in the work force will represent one more dream fulfilled for James Wynne and another gift to Tyler.

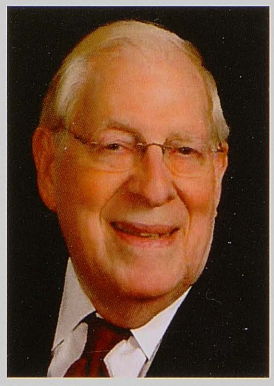
Ben E. Sutton Endowed Scholarship

The Tyler Junior College Alumni Association presented its Distinguished Alumnus Award to Ben Sutton, class of 1948, at the 2014 homecoming festivities. A surprise announcement was made during the dinner that an anonymous member of the "Ben Sutton Fan Club" had provided a generous gift to endow a TJC scholarship in his name. It was the capstone on a wonderful evening honoring one of TJC's biggest fans.

Sutton grew up just blocks from TJC's first site, the old Tyler High School, and he has fond memories of his years as a student at the college. Fresh out of the military, college studies helped ground him in civilian life after being stationed in Iceland with the 8th Air Force.

"Tyler Junior College was the ideal place for me to resume my education. The enrollment was only a few hundred, and the faculty were excellent, patient and understanding," he said. He was nurtured in an environment where then-president Dr. Harry Jenkins and dean Dr. Edward Potter greeted the students at TJC's main entrance each morning. He went on to finish his schooling at The University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in business.

Sutton was recalled to the U.S. Air Force for the Korean Conflict and served two years as a second lieutenant. Then he returned to Tyler and the Texas oil fields, where he has worked more than five decades for various oil companies including Sinclair Oil and Gas Company, Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company, Anadarko Production Company and finally, Nivla Oil Corporation, where he continues today as president.



Ben E. Sutton

"TJC was a great turning point in Ben's life," said his wife, Elizabeth. "It's a big transition from high school to college anyway, but when you add time in the military, your study habits haven't been honed. He talks about involvement in extracurricular activities and how the interaction with other students made a difference in his life. It helped him put down some roots, and it's nice to still have friends he made at TJC."

The Suttons have been consistently

involved in many worthy causes in Tyler since they moved back to the area in 1977, including generous contributions to various initiatives at TJC, such as the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center. They support TJC because they believe they are investing in a legacy institution that continues to serve the educational needs of the community.

"TJC is so adaptable to the needs of the community, thanks to the dedication of the administration and the trustees," Elizabeth said. "We choose to give to the college because you can make a difference and more of an impact at TJC."

The Ben Sutton Endowed Scholarship will benefit students studying in health care. "We want to help students excited about a career in the health care field, who have a passion for helping people. The kind of person we all want to interact with in the medical field," said Elizabeth.

The Suttons look forward to watching the success of each student who receives the scholarship.

A teacher's legacy lives on through Mary Helen Gaiser scholarship endowment

By Becca Anderson

When Don Gaiser sought a way to honor his mother, Mary Helen Gaiser, he could think of nothing more fitting than endowing a scholarship at Tyler Junior College. Mrs. Gaiser finished her final years of more than a half-century of teaching at TJC, retiring at age 78. "She'd be very, very honored by this," said Don Gaiser. "Education has been integral to her family for generations."

Born June 8, 1920, to the late Mr. and Mrs. Curtis A. Stewart, Mary was a descendant of pioneer West Texas ranchers. The family ranch spanned two counties between Forth Worth and Granbury. Her ancestors traveled from Kentucky by covered wagon and settled at the ranch in 1856. Forth Worth was a community on the Chisholm Trail—population 18. The family homesteaded 620 acres and later purchased several thousand additional acres, paying up to 10 cents an acre.

"Both of my mother's parents were college graduates, something almost unheard of back then," said Don Gaiser. "Both graduated from Baylor and set the foundation for education in the family. One of my mother's sisters has a master's degree, her middle sister also attended college. All of her nieces and nephews are college graduates, and some have post-graduate degrees."

Mary taught high school for 41 years, and then 15 years part time at TJC.

"She really loved teaching," Don said. "She said it made her feel young, being around young people, making a difference in their lives. She couldn't go to the grocery store without running into former students. They'd tell her she wasn't their favorite teacher in school because she kept them so busy, but they saw the value in it later."

Mary Helen Gaiser

Mary's own scholastic record was excellent. She was valedictorian of her 1937 graduating class of Granbury High School and named senior class beauty. Her dreams of being a teacher took her to Tarleton State College (now Tarleton State University) and North Texas State Teachers College (now University of North Texas). She graduated with honors in 1941 with a B.S. degree in business education, and landed her first teaching job at Gatesville High School the same year. She stayed for two years and did a similar stint at Arlington High School.

The most important job interview of her life was also her most unusual. Mary was pursuing post-graduate studies at The University of Texas at Austin in 1945, when the superintendent of Tyler High School (now John Tyler High School) arrived an hour early for their meeting, short of time and eager to speak with her. As a result, she was forced to interview in her robe and hair curlers. She made an excellent impression nonetheless, got the job, and spent 37 years at John Tyler.

Mary taught business English, shorthand, typing and clerical practice. Hundreds of students passed through her secretarial training classes, and were placed in part-time office positions the last six weeks of the school year. Mary loved being part of launching the business careers of many of her students, and was a natural educator. She was named as an Outstanding Secondary Educator of America in 1973. Though she retired from Tyler Independent School District in 1982, she still yearned to teach. Tyler Junior College was the beneficiary of her decades of experience for the next 15 years.

"She always felt TJC was a great springboard to a four-year university, especially for people who were economically disadvantaged," Don Gaiser said. "Students receive as good an education the first two years as any four-year university. The school has made a very positive impact on Tyler, and my mother thoroughly enjoyed teaching there."

A stickler for the rules, Mary nearly talked herself out of a job early. Each summer she was required to turn in her contract for the next year. One year the dean called and asked why he had not yet received it. "I intentionally did not send it," she said. "I turned 75 this summer, and that is the mandatory retirement age at TJC." There was a pause on the line, and the dean said, "Correct, however that does not apply to you. You teach as long as you want." He got his contract back the next day.

The Mary Helen Gaiser Endowed Scholarship assists students with financial need who are pursuing a business degree. The first recipient of the scholarship, Leslye Andino, was thrilled to hear it was available to help her. She plans on

Continued on page 18

FOUNDATIONNEWS

Gaiser, continued from page 17

graduating from TJC with an associate's degree in business administration, and to complete a bachelor's at The University of Texas at Austin. She plans to continue her education to become a criminal defense attorney.

Andino and Don Gaiser met at the Nov. 6, 2014 Annual Scholarship Luncheon, and she impressed him. "I really enjoyed meeting her," he said. "She is passionate about her education. Already as a freshman she has a lot of lofty goals—an MBA and then on to law school. She has lots of drive, determination and ambition. I know my mother would be very pleased with her as the recipient."

"I feel so special being the first recipient of this scholarship," Leslye said. When asked what she'd like to say to Don Gaiser, she said, "Your mother was a dedicated and hard worker for TJC. I hope in my endeavors I make both of you proud."

Gaiser is proud of the endowed scholarship that bears his mother's name. "I think this is a great way to actually help future generations. It's a great way to honor a loved one and have their name and influence and impact continue in perpetuity. I'm thoroughly glad I did it."

For more information on setting up a scholarship at TJC, contact the TJC Foundation Office at 903-510-2382.

Becca Anderson is a contributing writer to the Apache Magazine.

TJC takes reins on The Park of East Texas/East Texas State Fair scholarship

More than 2,000 organizations, clubs, and associations have channeled millions of dollars through TJC in the form of scholarships. One such organization, The Park of East Texas, began funding the East Texas State Fair Scholarship in 1992 through proceeds from its annual East Texas State Fair.

Since then, more than $400,000 has been awarded to East Texas high school seniors enrolling at TJC. For the first 21 years, the scholarship was not only funded by The Park of East Texas but its administration oversaw the application, selection and notification process.

In 2014, The Park asked the TJC Advancement Office to take over administration of the scholarship.

Deborah Newman, ETSF director of competitive events, "Working with TJC for the administration of the scholarship brings a broader pool of applicants."

The TJC scholarship committee selects eligible students from the general applicant pool. Recipients must be a graduating senior from a public, private or home school and demonstrate a financial need. Participation in activities associated with The Park is not required.

Ten applicants are chosen each year to receive the $1,500 scholarship. Applications for Fall 2015 can be submitted online at www.tjc.edu/scholarship.

If your organization or club is interested in having TJC administer scholarship funds, please contact Shelby Brown, TJC director of advancement and annual giving, at (903) 510-3158 or email sbro@tjc.edu.

TJC receives educational fundraising national award, district award for annual report

For the second year in a row, Tyler Junior College has received national recognition for overall performance in educational fundraising. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has named 84 colleges and universities and 20 independent schools as recipients of its 2014 Educational Fundraising Awards, which recognize institutions for overall performance and improvement in educational fundraising programs.

"We are honored that Tyler Junior College was selected for this award," said Dr. Kim Russell, TJC vice president for advancement and external affairs. Russell also serves as executive director of the TJC Foundation. "Our success is due to the TJC Foundation board of directors and, specifically, our dedicated investment committee.

Russell accepted the award at the CASE Conference for Community College Advancement, held in September in Sacramento, Calif.

"We thank TJC President Dr. Mike Metke for his outstanding leadership of the college and support of the foundation."

Members of the TJC Foundation investment committee are: Billy Hibbs, chair; James I. Perkins; Lee Gibson; Eleanor Stringer; and David McCullough.

Other institutions awarded in TJC's category were: Monroe Community College (N.Y.); Northampton Community College (Pa.); Northern Wyoming Community College; Northwestern Michigan College; and Sandhills Community College (N.C.).

Selection is based on data submitted to the Council for Aid to Education's annual Voluntary Support of Education survey. A CASE member institution is automatically eligible to receive an overall performance or overall improvement award, provided it has participated in the VSE survey for the past three years. Institutions are evaluated within appropriate peer groups by volunteer judges.

TJC's Annual Report to the Community won gold in the Medallion Awards held during the annual National Council for Marketing & Public Relations District 4 Conference held in October in Oklahoma City.

The annual report provides a summary of accomplishments from the previous academic year, along with the latest audited financial data from the college and the TJC Foundation.

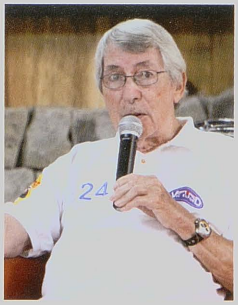
FOUNDATIONNEWS

Porsche club event raises funds for Ron Wakefield Scholarship in Automotive Technology

On Sept. 28, the Dallas-area Porsche Club came to Tyler for one of the most interesting and entertaining automobile events ever in Northeast Texas.

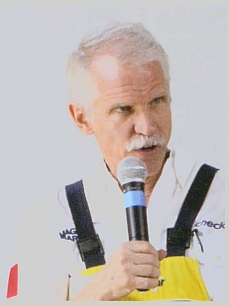
The event was held in a French barn known as "Le Auto Grange," owned by local car enthusiast Billy Hibbs.

Hibbs' garage features a factory Porsche 908 short-tail coupe, all eight cylinders, gull-wing doors and original race memorabilia; but he is most passionate about sending students, who otherwise couldn't afford to attend, to Tyler Junior College to study automotive technology.



Famous factory Porsche driver Vic Elford was the event's keynote speaker. Elford drove Hibbs' 908 at Zeltweg, the Austrian Grand Prix, in 1968.

Proceeds from the event helped create the Ron Wakefield Scholarship in Automotive Technology. Wakefield, who graduated from Mineola High School in 1957, became the



engineering editor for Road and Track magazine in 1965. He became its editor in 1972. Hibbs refers to this as the "golden era of automotive journalism," where most enthusiasts consumed every magazine copy and hung on every word in the age prior to the internet.

"I had no idea the guy doing the tests and writing the articles went to high school with my mother," Hibbs said. "TJC has one of the best automotive training centers in the country, and the Ron Wakefield Scholarship in Automotive Technology will allow some deserving young gear head to pursue a lucrative career as a highly credentialed mechanic."

Wakefield, who lives in San Diego, attended the event and shared stories from his experiences testing some of the very first Porsches in America and what it was like in the 1960s, driving every cool exotic car imaginable.

ABOVE: The Dallas-area Porsche Club came to Tyler for a fundraising event to establish the Ron Wakefield Scholarship in Automotive Technology. LOWER LEFT: Keynote speaker Vic Elford. LOWER RIGHT: Event host Billy Hibbs.

TJC employees contribute more than $60k for annual campaign

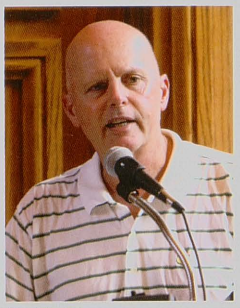
In 2014, TJC employees raised a record-breaking $61,086, up 27 percent from 2013. The annual campaign, which kicks off at the beginning of each fall semester, provides TJC employees with the opportunity to financially support the College. The number of full-time employees participating rose by nearly 5 percent this year. Individuals can give to a variety of initiatives, including the TJC Faculty and Staff Promises to Keep Scholarship. Since the scholarship was established in 2009 as part of the employee campaign, TJC faculty and staff have contributed more than $116,000, resulting in 147 scholarships for TJC students. The campaign also supports the United Way of Smith County, and TJC employees pledged $7,100 in support of the United Way.

FOUNDATIONNEWS

Azalea Orthopedics Scholarship Golf Tournament scores another hole-in-one

By Becca Anderson

The 27th annual Tyler Junior College Foundation scholarship golf tournament shattered previous fund-raising records for the event. Held Sept. 4, 2014 at Hollytree Country Club in Tyler, the event raised $75,000 in scholarships as a result of the generosity of 69 sponsors and 28 teams.



Dr. Kim Foreman, representing title sponsor Azalea Orthopedics, welcomes guests to pre-tournament luncheon.

Golf tournaments are a popular choice for fund-raising, and the TJC Foundation tournament is no exception. It gives participants an enjoyable day on the course, plenty of sponsorship opportunities and allows the benefiting students to be involved in the event as well. Azalea Orthopedics served as the title sponsor for the tournament for the second year. For orthopedic care, Azalea believes that the difference is in specialty care. They continue to support the TJC Foundation's tournament, because they believe that scholarships make a difference in the lives of TJC students.

The 2014 tournament enables dozens of students to attend TJC with financial help, which in turn builds the community through a better-educated and prepared workforce. The obvious benefits to the whole area draw participants to the tournament.

In addition to the title sponsor, three Corporate Scholar Sponsors each donated $5,000. Delek Refining, Ltd. (third year), HGR/Turner Joint Venture (second year), and Allen Samuels Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Tyler (a new sponsor at this level, thanks to president and general manager Mark Warren.) These sponsor funds go directly to the three students who were surprised at the luncheon with a $5,000 scholarship to cover the two years they attend TJC. These outstanding students were awarded from a pool of golf tournament scholarship recipients.

Other student recipients receive a $1,000 scholarship to help with their tuition and expenses. These funds spell the difference between attending college and being able to focus on studies and activities, as opposed to having to work and study—or forgo college altogether.

Delek, HGR/Turner and Allen Samuels Corporate Scholars (clockwise, from left) are: Markita Nickelberry, Hayden Gable, Chance Selvidge, Natalia Sanches and Taylor Pyle.

The tournament committee featured a student testimonial as part of the pre-tournament luncheon, attended by 225 people and sponsored by the Louis & Peaches Owen Family Foundation for the 5th consecutive year.

Mikenna Denton touched hearts and reinforced the importance of the Foundation scholarship program as she told her story. Mikenna lost her father to a car wreck that also badly injured her 3-year-old brother and devastated the family for some time. Her mother eventually remarried, which increased the size of the family from six to 12. Not only does this make for difficulties in paying for education for all, but both parents are themselves actively completing their higher education degrees.

For Mikenna, the scholarships she receives mean college is in reach. She did her part by graduating 8th in her class at Harmony High School, participating in the TJC Honors program and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Recipient Mikenna Denton speaks during the luncheon.

It is the TJC Foundation's privilege to give her the additional assistance necessary to make her college dreams come true as she aspires to be an occupational therapy assistant.

Additional sponsors of the event included new supporters Presidio (Shirt Sponsor), Fitzpatrick Architects (new Sweet Treat Sponsor), Randall Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram (Hole-in-One Sponsor), Canyon Creek Travel (Raffle Sponsor—winner will enjoy a cruise of the western Caribbean during Spring Break 2015 with the TJC Apache Belles), and Don Juan restaurants of Tyler (Promotional Dining Day Sponsor, which gave 10 percent of sales from one day of dining at all three of their Tyler locations.)

Organizing and overseeing a golf tournament is a big job, and the committee this year included representatives from Jacksonville and Lindale, where TJC now has locations as well. Special thanks are due to Tournament Chair Darin Newhouse of Henry & Peters PC (a member of the advisory committee since 2010), Immediate Past Chair Loren Bennett of Eiche Mapes and Company Inc., Incoming Chair Claude Henry of Texas Bank and Trust, and committee members Gary Ables (Ables-Land, Inc.), Lee Browning (Servpro of Tyler), Clark Hampe Jr., (Hampe Law Firm PLLC), Paul N. Latta (DDS), Jason

Continued on page 30

Your Generosity Makes a Difference!

The 2014 **Azalea Orthopedics Scholarship Golf Tournament**, held on Thursday, Sept. 4 at Hollytree Country Club, was a triumph for education. It was made possible by the many alumni and friends dedicated to making a difference for TJC and our community.

Thank you to all 69 tournament sponsors! Your continuing generosity ensures that East Texas students can pursue a higher education founded in the rich traditions of Tyler Junior College.

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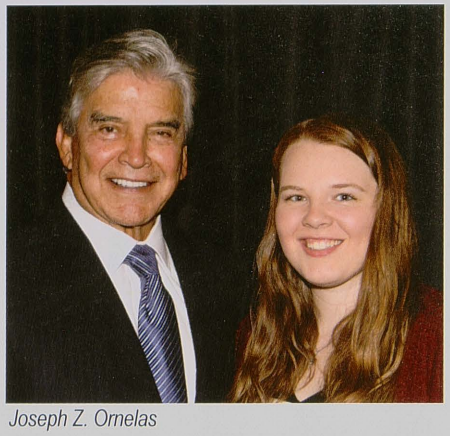
From left: Lee Browning, Eleanor Stringer, Claude Henry, Scott Sawyer, Bruce Thomson, Gary Ables, Jay Misenheimer, Dr. Paul Latta and Tournament Chair, Darin Newhouse. Not pictured – Loren Bennett, Clark Hampe, Jr., Jason Layne, Kevin Shively, Dick Stone and Stan Surratt.

TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION™

tjc.edu/golftournament

FOUNDATIONNEWS

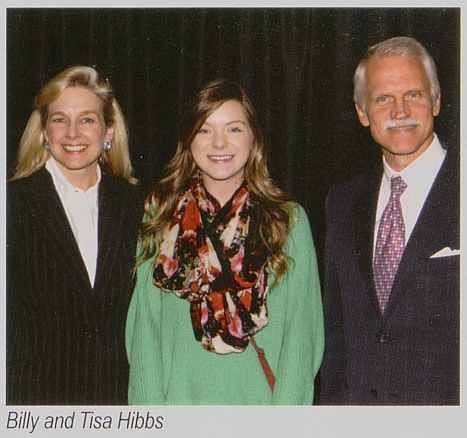
Students meet their supporters at annual TJC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon


Joseph Z. Ornelas

Cliff Samples

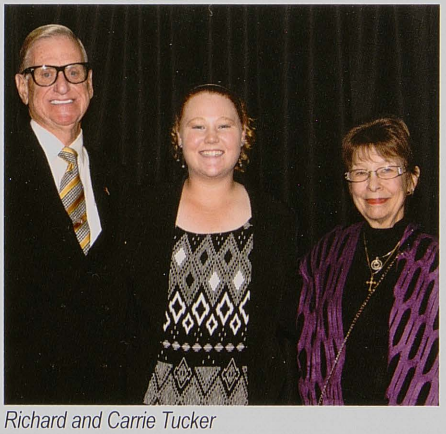
Peggy Smith

Virginia Gatewood


Billy and Tisa Hibbs

Teresa Butcher and LaVerne Gollob

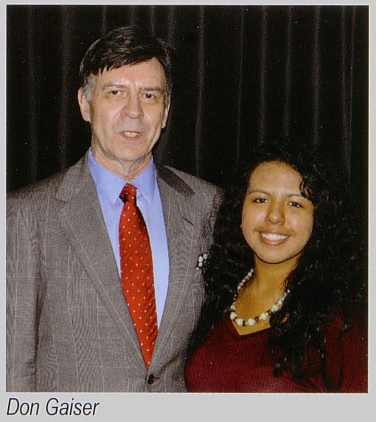
Ted Walters, Mark and Janet Walters, Jane Hightower


Richard and Carrie Tucker

Angel Saleh

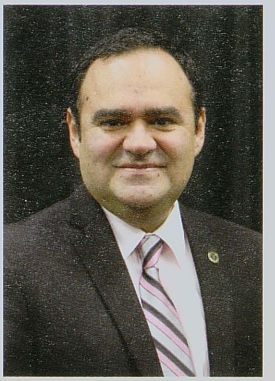
Mary Dale Thomas

Kathy Story


Don Gaiser

Mejia named TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs

Dr. Juan E. Mejia, who joined Tyler Junior College as vice president for student affairs in October 2013, has been appointed to serve as TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.



Dr. Juan E. Mejia

Mejia served as a founding member for South Texas College in McAllen, where he had served as chief academic officer since 2003. In that role, he worked with the academic deans, campus administrators, academic directors, department and program chairs, and the faculty senate, comprised of approximately 600 faculty members who served the STC's growing student population. STC grew to six full comprehensive campuses and an enrollment of close to 33,000 students, making it the 8th largest community college in the state of Texas. In addition, it had the largest dual enrollment in the state, with close to 13,000 students from its participating school districts.

TJC President Dr. Mike Metke said, "During the founding and meteoric growth at South Texas College, Dr. Mejia quickly emerged as a superstar. I came to rely on his positive energy, intelligence and leadership skills, and so did everyone else.

"Knowing what he can bring to a college community, I am glad he is in Tyler. We have a visionary board of trustees, and we have been able to assemble an outstanding leadership team; therefore, I am looking forward to more exciting times for TJC and truly believe the best is yet to be."

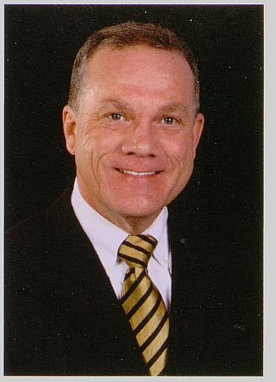
In his role as vice president for student affairs at TJC, Mejia was responsible for intercollegiate athletics, student life and involvement, enrollment management services, advising, admissions and dual credit, registrar, campus safety, support services and judicial programs. He will continue to provide the leadership for these areas as well as taking on his new role as chief academic officer.

"I am convinced that the collaboration between academic and student affairs will lead to our ability to accelerate the launching of strategic initiatives focused at student and community success," Mejia said. "It will also allow the college community to take these initiatives to scale and build the institutional infrastructure for sustainability."

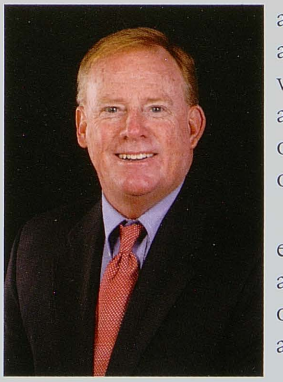
Drain, Johnson appointed to assistant vice president positions

Dr. Tom Johnson and Dr. Tim Drain have assumed new responsibilities at Tyler Junior College.

Johnson has been named assistant vice president for student services. Drain has been named assistant vice president for student engagement.



Dr. Tom Johnson



Dr. Tim Drain

In this new role, Johnson will work with key leaders from the institution, including the dean for enrollment management and the registrar, to promote access through various enrollment strategies, including a more focused approach to serving our nation's veterans. He will continue to oversee TJC Campus Police and work with the TJC judicial department. He will also work with TJC Career Services to strengthen the services provided to students to serve the region's business and industry.

For the past nine years, Johnson has served TJC in various instruction and leadership capacities. Prior to joining TJC, Johnson was employed by the Houston Community College System and Sam Houston State University. He spent 20 years at the Houston Police Department where he retired as director of planning and research.

Johnson possesses five academic degrees including: psychology, law enforcement, criminology/sociology, criminal justice management and higher education administration, and he has completed post-graduate work in history.

Dr. Juan E. Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, said, "Dr. Johnson is an experienced administrator with extensive academic and professional backgrounds; and I am very fortunate to have him on the team, and I look forward to the continued opportunity to work with him to serve our students and communities."

As assistant vice president for student engagement, Drain will maintain his role as athletics director and will now also oversee student activities, TJC Cheer, and the Apache Belles.

Drain is in his 16th year in athletics administration at TJC and his 13th as athletics director. Tyler Junior College has won a total of 51 NJCAA national championships since 1946, which ranks it fourth in the history of NJCAA. Twenty-four of those have come under Drain's tenure, with 19 of those coming with Drain as athletics director. In 2012, he was named Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year in the Community College/ Junior College division, and his latest accomplishment came with his induction into the NJCAA Men's Soccer Hall of Fame in 2013 for his contributions to the sport. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he received bachelor's and master's degrees in kinesiology and earned his Doctorate in Educational Administration in 1998.

Mejia said, "I am a fan of Dr. Drain's leadership style, and he is a master of winning 'the Tyler way.' Our competition teams are also extremely strong academically. Dr. Drain has assembled a great team, leads by example, and is able to empower people to greatness."

ONCAMPUS

TJC, ETMC collaborate on emergency medical services professions program

In August, TJC and East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System announced a partnership agreement designed to strengthen the TJC's emergency medical services professions (EMSP) program, which provides certificates and associate's degrees to graduates.

The program also provides improved professional development opportunities for ETMC.

"We are very excited to partner with a respected East Texas institution like Tyler Junior College," said Neal Franklin, ETMC EMS general manager. "The collaboration is beneficial to both East Texas Medical Center EMS and TJC but we believe the greatest benefit will be to the students."

TJC President Dr. Mike Metke said the agreement would immediately improve the college program by incorporating the use of an ambulance simulator to depict real-life scenarios and instruments. In addition, the EMSP program shares simulation equipment with TJC's nursing and allied health programs in the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center, which opened in January.

TJC and ETMC will work together to schedule required professional development training for ETMC EMS personnel throughout the TJC service area – training that was previously conducted internally by ETMC.

"This is a win-win scenario for TJC and for East Texas Medical Center," Metke said. "We will be preparing graduates using the region's greatest resources and exposing them to real-life work scenarios as well as opportunities for immediate employment in the field."

A partnership agreement between TJC and East Texas Medical Center will strengthen TJC's emergency medical services professions program and ultimately create a better-trained EMS workforce. From left: T.C. Howard, ETMC EMS director of clinical educational services; TJC President Dr. Mike Metke; ETMC Regional Health System President Elmer G. Ellis; and Neal Franklin, ETMC EMS general manager.

Metke thanked Dr. Clayton Allen, associate vice president for instruction, for his "leadership and quick work in making the partnership a reality" in time for the Fall 2014 semester.

ETMC Regional Healthcare System

Continued on page 31

Apache Belles visit State Capitol, perform in inaugural parade of Gov. Greg Abbott

The Tyler Junior College Apache Belles traveled to Austin on Tuesday, Jan. 20, for the inaugural ceremony and parade for Greg Abbott, the 48th governor of Texas.

"This was a momentous day in the history of Texas," Apache Belles Director Jasilyn Schaefer said, "and the Apache Belles were honored to take part."

Following the inauguration ceremony, Abbott took a few moments to meet the Apache Belles and TJC photographer Jessica Alexander inside the Capitol lobby and pose for what turned out to be his first photo after being sworn in as governor.

He later shared the photo on his personal Twitter account and said, "The first photo I took after becoming governor was with the Tyler Junior College Apache Belles."

This is not the first time the Belles have been part of Texas inaugural history. In 1991, Ann Richards was sworn in as the first female governor of Texas, and the Apache Belles marched in her inaugural parade.

The Apache Belles' Austin experience wouldn't have been complete without a lesson on Texas history. The Belles spent inauguration morning with Matt Schaefer, state representative for District 6 and husband of Apache Belles Director Schaefer, as he and his staff conducted tours of the Capitol; and they were introduced from the House Floor.

The Apache Belles spent a day in Austin on Jan. 20. The Belles toured the State Capitol, met the representatives from their home districts and performed in the inaugural parade for Gov. Greg Abbott.

The Belles also had the opportunity to meet the representatives of their respective home districts.

Follow the Apache Belles at apachebelles.com, facebook.com/ApacheBelles, and instagram.com/ApacheBelles.

Jeremy Strickland named TJC director of bands

Jeremy Strickland

Jeremy Strickland, currently assistant director of bands at Texas Christian University, will be the next director of bands for Tyler Junior College.

Strickland will begin his duties at TJC on June 1. He will lead the TJC band program, which consists of: Apache Band (marching band), three concert bands, two jazz ensembles, jazz combo, two percussion ensembles and indoor drumline.

He has served as assistant director of bands at TCU for the past seven years. Prior to TCU, he served as both assistant and head band director at Springtown High School.

Strickland said, "My family and I are extremely excited to be joining the TJC Apache family. The TJC band program has a rich history, and we look forward to continuing to entertain crowds and offer the best performance opportunities available to our students.

"I was blown away by the size of the campus and the friendliness I experienced when I visited TJC during my interview process," he said. "It seemed like everyone we passed said 'good morning' on their way to class. That doesn't happen everywhere."

"TJC's Apache Band is one of the hallmarks of excellence for our institution, and we celebrate the addition of Jeremy Strickland, who will bring a vast amount of experience combined with proven visionary leadership," said Dr. Juan E. Mejia, TJC acting provost and vice president for academic and student affairs. "We are excited to see what Jeremy has in store for our students and communities when he joins us this summer."

Strickland will replace longtime director Tom Mensch, who recently accepted a position as director of instrumental music at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler.

"We will always be grateful to Tom Mensch for his years of stellar leadership.," Mejia said. "Tom was wonderful with our students and an expert in his field, and now we all look forward to the Jeremy Strickland era."

Strickland added, "With the rising cost of getting a college education, we will be working toward TJC becoming the go-to place for student-musicians looking to begin the process of their performing and teaching careers. I can't wait to get started."

Strickland has been on staff with bands that have appeared in six bowl games including the Rose Bowl and Fiesta Bowl, as well as marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

He is an active member of the Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Bandmasters Association, the Texas Music Adjudicators Association and the College Band Directors National Association.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at TCU, he serves as the college band liaison for the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association and the College Football Playoff National Championship Game.

He holds a bachelor's degree in music from The University of Texas at Austin, where he was a member of the internationally acclaimed UT Wind Ensemble and Longhorn Band, known as "The Showband of the Southwest." He earned his master's degree in music from TCU.

His wife Ashley is a pharmacist, and they have three children: Kaden, age 8, and Hailey and Abigail, both age 4.

For more information on the TJC band program, go to tjc.edu/band.

TJC marketing staff earns awards for excellence

The Tyler Junior College marketing staff brought home five Medallion Awards from the annual National Council for Marketing & Public Relations District 4 conference in October in Oklahoma City.

In District 4's annual Medallion Awards competition, TJC earned the following awards:

- Gold awards in the college annual report and website categories; and
- Silver awards in the online marketing/advertising, notes/cards/invitations and poster categories

The TJC marketing team is made up of: Jessica Alexander, photographer/graphic designer; Allen Arrick, web content producer/designer; Susie Bell, graphic designer; Duane Jeffers, web and rich media content developer; Elise Mullinix, editorial manager; Pamela Rathbun, graphic projects manager; and Leah Wansley, web and rich media content manager.

NCMPR District 4 is comprised of marketing and public relations professionals from colleges in Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Wyoming.

NCMPR is the only organization of its kind that represents marketing and public relations professionals specifically at community and technical colleges. NCMPR has more than 1,550 members from more than 650 colleges across the United States, Canada and other countries. The organization's mission is to provide professional development opportunities, advocate on behalf of the profession and the institutions it serves, and recognize professional excellence.

The national NCMPR conference will be held in March in Portland, Ore.

The Center for Earth & Space Science Education at TJC offers 'A Year of Destruction'

It's been a shaky year at the Center for Earth & Space Science Education at Tyler Junior College.

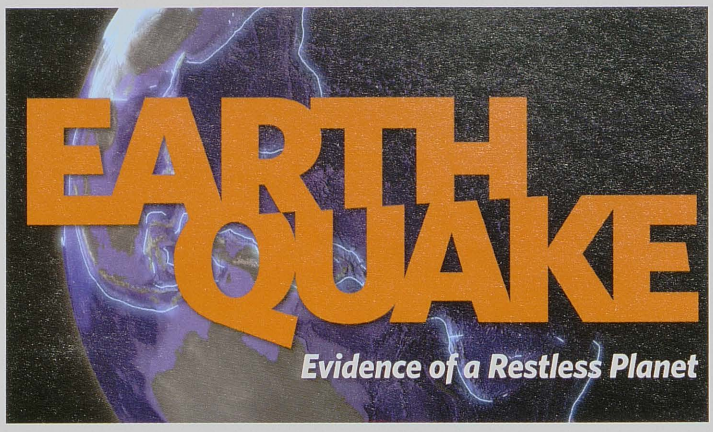
"A Year of Destruction," a yearlong exhibition featuring earthquakes, volcanoes and other natural disasters, is well under way and will last through September 2015.

The program offers a series of disaster-related shows and exhibits, including "When the Earth Shakes," a collection of interactive stations that show the science of earthquakes and earthquake-resistant engineering.

Visitors can jump on the Quake Karaoke platform and try to replicate the motions of three different historic earthquakes; make waves crash on a "beach" in the 16-foot-long Tsunami Tank; complete the plate tectonic Puzzled Earth before time runs out and the pieces fall; spin through geologic history to make continents move and reform; see where global earthquakes happen on the real-time Seismic Monitor; and be an engineer who designs and builds structures to withstand earthquakes on the Shake Table.

In Earthquake Theater, visitors can view five, fast-paced videos showing scientists and engineers working together to make the world safer during earthquakes. They can watch footage of real quakes and find out what causes them, and see how engineers use amazing tools and technology to test and improve building techniques and materials.

The corresponding dome theater show, "Earthquake: Evidence of a Restless Planet," provides a sweeping geological journey that explores the forces that transform the surface of our planet.



After a stunning flight over the San Andreas Fault, the film takes the audience back in time to experience San Francisco's infamous 1906 earthquake.

Data-driven visualizations illustrate Earth's story, revealing how subtle motions and sudden ruptures have shaped our planet over eons — and how geological activity influences the course of human history. Finally, it shows how scientists and engineers help society prepare for a safer future.

Throughout the year at the TJC science center, academic experts and scholars will also present Public Science Lecture Series programs on a variety of timely, interesting topics related to science and education.

The Center for Earth & Space Science Education at TJC is located at 1411 E. Lake St. For more information, go to www.tjc.edu/cesse or call 903-510-2312.

Two TJC students chosen as 2014 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars

Tyler Junior College students and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members Mikenna Denton and Destiny Eaton have been chosen as 2014 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars.

Mikenna Denton

Destiny Eaton

Mikenna Denton is an occupational therapy major from Gilmer. Destiny Eaton is a psychology major from Weatherford.

In all, 207 Phi Theta Kappa members have been awarded a total of $207,000 in Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholarships. Chosen from more than 900 applications worldwide, the scholars receive scholarships of $1,000 each to further their associate's degree studies.

Independent judges evaluate the applications based on scholastic achievement, community service and leadership potential.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program provides new Phi Theta Kappa members with financial resources to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Scholars are also encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides $200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with up to $25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the U.S. military. The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and provides Leaders of Promise Global Scholarships, earmarked for international students.

"These funds not only aid college completion, but provide students with the opportunity to engage in Society programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in Phi Theta Kappa. So the funds are not only an investment in our students, they are an investment in the future of our organization and the colleges and communities we serve," said Dr. Rod Risley, executive director and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa.

"Congratulations to our 2014 recipients. Without a doubt, the Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise program will make a tremendous impact on the lives of these hard-working, high-achieving students – making it possible for them to complete their associate's degrees."

Holocaust survivor shares story of her childhood spent in a Nazi concentration camp

Of the 15,000 children imprisoned in Terezin concentration camp between 1941 and 1945, Inge Auerbacher was among the 1 percent who survived.

Auerbacher, a Holocaust survivor, research chemist and author, shared her story during a visit to TJC in November.

The event was sponsored by TJC's Alpha Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

Auerbacher was the last Jewish child born in Kippenheim, a village located at the foot of the Black Forest in southwestern Germany, near the borders of France and Switzerland. Both of her parents came from observant Jewish families who had lived in Germany for many generations.

In August 1942, when Auerbacher was 7 years old, she and her parents were sent to the Terezin (Theresienstadt) concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. She arrived clutching her beloved doll, Marlene.

Between 1941 and 1945, a total of 140,000 people were shipped to Terezin; 88,000 were sent primarily to the gas chambers in Auschwitz, and 35,000 died of malnutrition and disease in Terezin.

Inge Auerbacher

Auerbacher and both of her parents were liberated by the Soviet Army on May 8, 1945. She was 10 years old at the time; and in 1946, they immigrated to America. In 1953, she graduated in three years (with honors) from Bushwick High School in Brooklyn, N.Y., earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1958, completed post-graduate work in biochemistry and worked more than 38 years as a research chemist.

She has appeared on many radio and television programs both in the U.S. and abroad, and she has published more than 50 poems and articles. Her song, "We Shall Never Forget," was presented at the first World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors held in Jerusalem in 1981.

TJC, UT Tyler developing Patriot Pathway to ease transfer between institutions

Tyler Junior College and The University of Texas at Tyler, focused on an authentic collective impact, announce the strengthening of their collaboration and partnership through a program currently being developed as the Patriot Pathway.

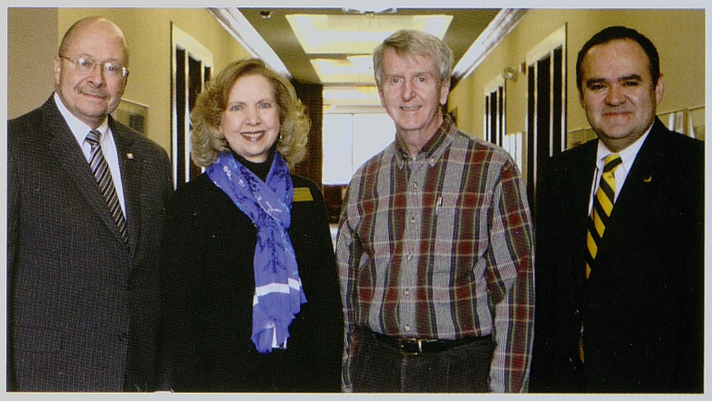
Together, the TJC and UT Tyler academic leadership teams will create a plan leading to the seamless transfer of students between the institutions.

Dr. Ross Sherman, UT Tyler interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Juan E. Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, who are also participating in the region's Collective Impact work, are committed to increasing the educational attainment levels for East Texas, focusing on economic development and regional prosperity.

"UT Tyler and TJC have enjoyed a positive relationship for a number of years, and our goal is to take it to a higher level where the models of collaboration that we create between our institutions can become the national models," Mejia said.

"In working with Dr. Sherman, his team, and the academic leadership team of TJC, it is clear that we have the ability to rapidly implement models that best serve our communities, do it at scale, and make them sustainable," he added.

Sherman said, "Our goal is to increase the educational attainment level of the citizens of East Texas. We recognize the economic and social benefits that come when students earn post-secondary degrees. Dr. Mejia and I are committed to working collaboratively to achieve this goal."



The University of Texas at Tyler and Tyler Junior College are creating Patriot Pathway, a plan that will lead to the seamless transfer of students between the two institutions. Pictured, from left: Dr. Ross Sherman, UT Tyler interim provost and vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Tampa Nannen, TJC assistant provost; Dr. Bill Geiger, UT Tyler vice provost and dean of the graduate school and academic affairs; and Dr. Juan E. Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.

Dr. Mejia and Dr. Sherman also expressed appreciation to Dr. Bill Geiger, UT Tyler vice provost and dean of the graduate school and academic affairs, and to Dr. Tampa Nannen, TJC assistant provost, for their leadership with the initiative.

ALUMNINEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE TJC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This is an exciting year for our TJC Alumni Association. In the spirit of our Apache Nation, it is our goal to promote lifelong relationships with our current and future alumni. We will enrich the TJC experience by providing networking opportunities, activities and services that celebrate our alumni and school.

As I look around our great campus at all of the projects that are underway, combined with the recent successes in both academics and athletics, it is clear that Dr. Mike Metke and his leadership team are positioning TJC for a promising future. We are on a steady course and can be proud of the direction we are heading.

Our organization exists to unite alumni and magnify their impact at TJC. We are working diligently to provide opportunities for you to partner with us to advance TJC together. You play a crucial role in helping us convey our alumni loyalty to increase TJC Alumni Association membership.

So I am appealing to you:

- Join the TJC Alumni Association, if you're not already a member.
- If you have relatives or friends who are TJC alumni, please urge them to join the association.

This is **your** alumni association.

I am honored to serve the association this year and look forward to hearing from you.

Wanda Bowie Ealey
Class of 1974

Apache Belles conducting Save-Our-Plate campaign

Along with more than 50 other specialty license plates across the state, the Apache Belles plate could be facing extinction.

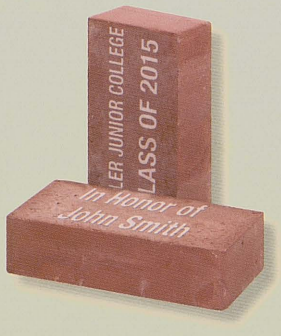
Specialty plates that do not meet the minimum of 200 plates actively in use over a given year are at risk of being permanently removed from the program, according to a My Plates news release in January.

To meet the requirement, 100 new Apache Belles plates must be purchased by June 30, 2015.

To purchase the Apache Belles license plate, go to www.MyPlates.com.

Brick campaign helps Pave the Way to the future

An engraved brick is a wonderful way to honor TJC graduates, alumni, faculty members, friends or loved ones, and helps Pave the Way for future students.



In January 2015, TJC opened the Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center, the most ambitious project in TJC's 89-year history.

For a donation to the TJC Foundation of $120, your special message will be engraved in a brick, which will be set in the Paver Plaza at the main entry of the new facility.

To make a (tax-deductible) donation and reserve your brick, visit tjcpavetheway.com or call 844-290-2600.

ALUMNI NEWS

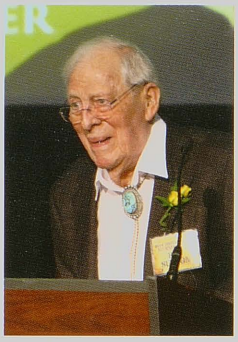
TJC Alumni Association honors alumni award recipients

The Tyler Junior College Alumni Association honored the 2014 alumni award recipients during the annual TJC Alumni Awards Dinner on Oct. 24.

This year's TJC Alumni Awards honorees were: Ben Sutton '48, Distinguished Alumni Award; Dick Johns '48, Special Recognition Award; and Literacy Council of Tyler, Apache Spirit.

Ben Sutton '48 Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni award recognizes an individual who has brought honor to TJC through their distinguished professional achievement and contributions to society.



Ben Sutton

Ben Sutton fondly remembers his years as a Tyler Junior College student from 1946 to '48. He lived with his grandparents in what was then considered south Tyler, just blocks from TJC's first site – the old Tyler High School downtown. During WWII, Sutton had been stationed in Iceland with the 8th Air Force and had served as an aerial engineer and crew chief on various fighter planes.

His grandparents encouraged him to use the GI bill and attend TJC.

Sutton said, "Tyler Junior College was the ideal place for me to resume my education. The enrollment was only a few hundred, and the faculty was excellent, patient and understanding." Sutton remembers the nurturing and welcoming environment including then president Dr. Harry Jenkins and dean Dr. Edward Potter greeting students at TJC's main entrance each morning.

Sutton went on to finish his education at The University of Texas at Austin, where he studied business and completed a bachelor's degree. After graduation, he was recruited by numerous oil companies but was recalled to the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. After serving two years as a second lieutenant, he would continue the family business, as his grandfather had moved to Tyler in the 1920s to work in the East Texas oil fields. For more than five decades, Sutton has worked throughout Texas for various oil companies including Sinclair Oil and Gas Company, Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company and its subsidiary, Anadarko Production Company and finally, Nivla Oil Corporation, where he continues to work as president. Sutton has been affiliated with numerous professional groups and served as president for the East Texas Producers and Royalty Owners Association.

He has also volunteered for and led area government and nonprofit groups, including serving as chairman of Tyler's Planning and Zoning Commission and as president of both the East Texas Symphony Orchestra and Tyler Civic Theatre.

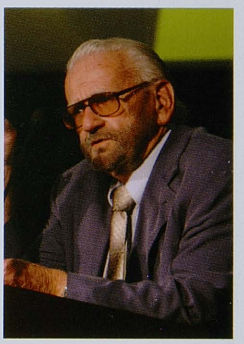
Since he and his wife Elizabeth moved back to Tyler in 1977, they have been consistently involved with many worthy causes in Tyler and generously contributed to various initiatives at Tyler Junior College, including the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center, which opened in January 2015.

They support TJC because they believe they are investing in an institution that continues to serve the educational needs of the community. As Mrs. Sutton said, "TJC is a driver of our local economy and one of our finest traditions."

Dick Johns '48 Special Recognition Award

The Special Recognition Award recognizes an individual for outstanding professional achievements and contributions to society and/or service to Tyler Junior College.

Richard A. (Dick) Johns is an artist and author who has lived in Tyler most of his life. He attended TJC from 1946 to '48 and received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas. Following duty in field artillery during the Korean Conflict, he served 10 years as engineering illustrations editor with General Dynamics Corporation in Fort Worth, where he was involved in assembly illustration of the B-36 and B-58 "Hustler," the first supersonic bomber.



Dick Johns

He currently does technical illustrations for Trane-American Standard and portraiture and structure renderings for a variety of clients, including TJC. Over the years, Johns has produced approximately 100 renderings for TJC, including a 75th anniversary collage of iconic TJC pioneers and historic landmarks. Johns' artwork is created using stippling, a meticulous method of creating a pattern simulating varying degrees of solidity or shading by using hundreds or thousands of small dots.

A prize-winning author, Johns has three novels available on Amazon: "Thirteenth Apostle," a story of the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul; "Return to Heroism," a fictionalized tale of the disciple Mark's encounter with the Qumran Essenes and their Dead Sea Scrolls; and "Garden of the Okapi", a missionary adventure that was published in hardback. In addition, Johns is author of "The Beairds," the story of the Beaird family of East Texas, early settlers and civic leaders in the region. The book tells the story of the contributions of the ancestors of Harold Beaird, a TJC alumnus, former TJC board member and longtime college supporter. Johns met Harold Beaird in 1945, before class on his first day as a student of Tyler High School, where TJC began. Johns' mother, Annie Hill, attended TJC in its infancy years and is credited with suggesting the Apache mascot during a student assembly in 1928.

ALUMNI NEWS

Literacy Council of Tyler Apache Spirit Award

The Apache Spirit Award recognizes a person or group who has shown spirit and motivation through the contribution of time and energy to a program or activity that measurably benefits Tyler Junior College.

The Literacy Council of Tyler served approximately 2,000 individuals last year, tutoring students toward completion of a Graduate Equivalency Diploma and working directly with others whose desire it was to learn to read the English language. Several of the program's GED graduates enrolled in a fostering transition program intended to lead toward associate degrees from TJC. The year didn't come without challenges. In the summer of 2013, the Literacy Council of Tyler Board of Directors learned that the State funding authority for literacy efforts was shifting, from the Texas Education Agency to the Texas Workforce Commission. The LCOT Board and its executive director, Nancy Crawford, met the challenge in stride and worked with TJC to establish a work readiness component that is now required for continued funding.

The Literacy Council of Tyler has partnered with TJC since 2001, when the LCOT office moved into donated space on the TJC West Campus. The partnership between the Literacy Council and TJC has grown over the past decade to include joint operation of the Family Learning Center of Tyler (FLCOT) and the establishment of the Intensive College Readiness program. The FLCOT combines TJC's early childhood program with a working childcare center and literacy and English fluency programs. Tyler ISD provides space for the FLCOT, which is located on the campus of Douglas Elementary.

The Intensive College Readiness program is a Literacy Council/TJC initiative that helps GED graduates transition successfully into college courses at TJC. Board chair Kristen Seeber said she feels the council is one of the strongest literacy programs in Texas.

Nancy Crawford and Kristen Seeber

Seeber, whose husband Joey – a former Tyler mayor – was one of its early board members, said "We are very blessed with a strong board, a diverse group of community leaders, and a lot of different perspectives. Nancy is a hero, but of course the real heroes are the students. At each of our board meetings, we try to have a student come to speak to the board. It reminds us why we're doing what we do."

For more on the TJC Alumni Association, or to join, go to tjc.edu/alumni.

Scholarship Golf Tournament, continued from page 20

Layne (PA), Jay Misenheimer (Community Volunteer), Scott Sawyer (Eiche Mapes and Company, Inc.), Kevin Shively (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas), Dick Stone (Stone Financial Services), Eleanor Stringer (Community Volunteer), Stan Surratt (Superintendent, Lindale ISD) and Bruce Thomson (American State Bank). Plans are already in the works for next year's tournament, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015, at Hollytree Country Club in Tyler. Interested sponsors and players should contact Mitch Andrews with the TJC Foundation office at 903-510-2034 or mand@tjc.edu.

Students who receive TJC Foundation Golf Tournament scholarships give back by volunteering to work the tournament.

Marked Improvement, continued from page 5

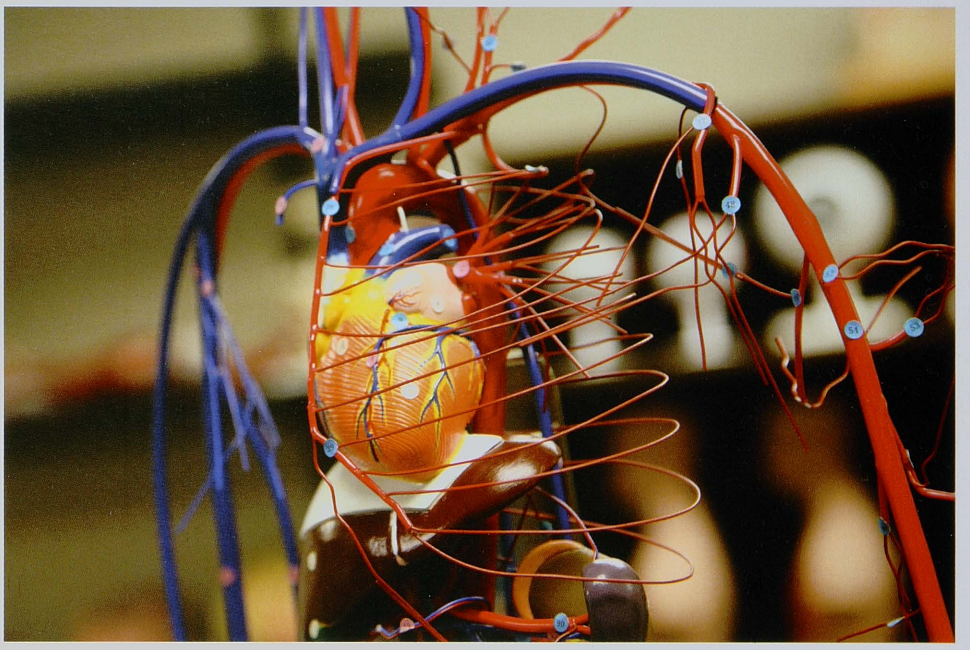
"Just taking a look at those models in class and then a week later having a test is not enough," said Christian Holman, a freshman from Rusk. "I need to be able to see those models again before the test." She can do that in the SRC, make notes and study with other students who are taking A&P I or A&P II.

"Having the professors here, one on one, you know that if you have a question, you get the right answer," said Edlin Acuna, a sophomore from Marshall. "You're not just guessing – am I right or am I wrong? So when you go to take that quiz, you're a lot more sure of what Dr. Ott or Dr. (Lynn) Gray told you."

"I like how they have the actual schedule posted outside, so that if I want to sit down with my teacher for the actual test I'm going to be taking I can look at that and say, 'OK, I need to be sure and come then, so I can be here when my teacher is here,'" Holman said. "I have a picture of the posted schedule on my phone."

Acuna said studying in groups is more effective. "We all work together and help each other. We all have our strengths and weaknesses," she said.

Maria Tabares, a freshman from Tyler, said she prefers studying at the SRC over going to the library, where a coffee shop lends itself to more noise and conversation. "Down here, if it is the regulars, we are all



down to business and we're studying the same thing.

"The instructors basically give up their personal hours to come down here. Most of us would be lost without it," she added.

"It's funny, what we've found is that, when we're in our office, students feel like they're disturbing us," Dr. Ott said. "You all know that's what office hours are for, right?" she asks of the A&P students. "I think sometimes students are a little intimidated to see us in our offices. Down here, it's more relaxed, more focused."

Dr. Boucher anticipates the SRC will become more popular over time, and he has plans to implement other resources to help students succeed, such as video tutorials and "lecture capture" – an online resource to deliver snippets of a professor's classroom instruction.

"We're constantly looking for better ways to present information. We have to have more than one approach," he said.

Fred M. Peters is TJC director of public affairs and grant development.

TJC, ETMC partner, continued from page 24

President Elmer G. Ellis said, "The paramedics and other emergency services personnel in our communities are vital to the EMS safety net for East Texas. This educational alliance with TJC represents another key measure of ETMC's dedication to provide the best of trauma and emergency care for our region."

Ron Schwartz, vice president and chief operating officer for ETMC EMS, said "ETMC EMS and TJC both have a history of forming partnerships within the community to benefit the community through efficiencies and relationships. This new partnership is an extension of both our visions. We will see EMS students better prepared for the workforce and better trained. ETMC EMS and TJC both win when this occurs."

The academic and training programs will be supervised by T.C. Howard, ETMC EMS director of clinical educational services. TJC will provide a coordinator to assist with the program.

TJC offers EMT-Basic, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic options for students.

According to local labor data, employment of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics was expected to grow by 33 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. There will also continue to be demand for part-time, volunteer EMTs and paramedics in rural areas and smaller metropolitan areas.

ETMC EMS has provided emergency services to Tyler/Smith County since 1968. Covering more than 15,000 square miles within Texas, it is one of the largest not-for-profit EMS providers in the nation.

Students interested in the EMSP program are urged to contact the TJC admissions office to apply to TJC.

Further information about the EMSP program is available at tjc.edu/ems.

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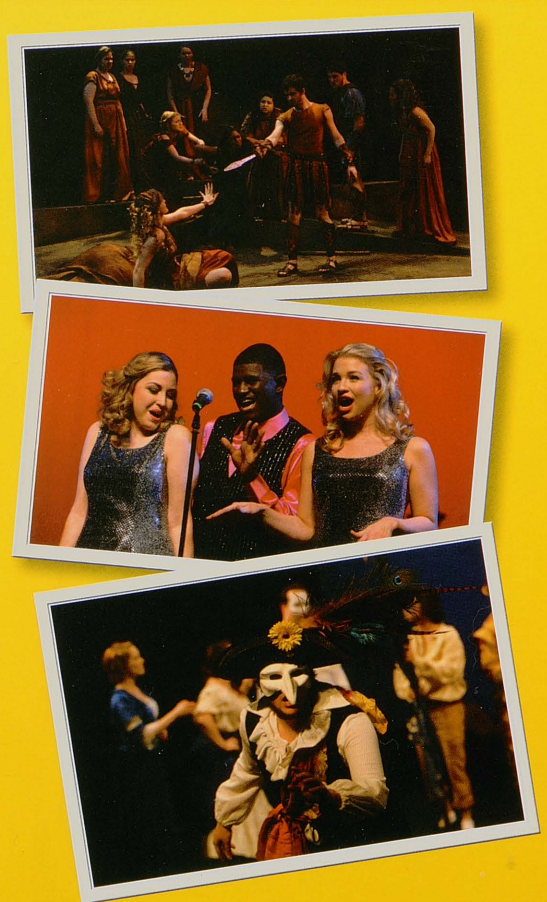

COMING ATTRACTIONS

'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown'
TJC Spring Musical
7:30 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 25-28
Wise Auditorium

Percussion Ensemble Concert
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26
Jean Browne Theatre

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band Concert
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3
Jean Browne Theatre

TJC Jazz Festival
7:30 p.m.
Thursday and Friday, March 5 and 6
Jean Browne Theatre

Grand Opening: The Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center
11 a.m. Friday, April 10

Spring Choral Concert
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14
Wise Auditorium

'Leading Ladies'
Theatre TJC
7:30 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday, April 22-25,
and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26
Jean Browne Theatre

'Broadway Blast'
Harmony & Understanding and
TJC Jazz Ensemble
7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30
Jean Browne Theatre

For more events, go to tjc.edu/PerformingArts.